

O What a Night / *John 13:1-5*

Have you ever had a night that changed your life forever? A moment in time that stands out among all others? For most of us, there are a handful of evenings etched into our memories - perhaps the night we got engaged, welcomed a child into the world, or experienced a profound spiritual awakening. This is one of those nights.

This night was special because ...

1. It was framed by a sense of _____.

2. It was attended by an uninvited _____.

- Active involvement in ministry is a good and wonderful thing; but it is not, in and of itself, a _____ of spiritual life or health.

- The ultimate environment for incubating faith is no _____, in and of itself, of a changed heart.

- Unconfessed sin _____ opens the door to the enemy's power.

3. It featured an act of _____.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share a memorable night from your life that changed you or stands out as significant. Why was it so special?
2. Read **John 13:1-5**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. Patrick mentioned that "active involvement in ministry is not, in itself, a guarantee of spiritual life or health." How can we ensure our faith remains genuine and vibrant, even when we're actively serving?
4. Reflect on the statement: "Unconfessed sin ALWAYS opens the door to Satan's power." How have you seen this play out in your own life or in the lives of others?
5. The disciples were arguing about who would be the greatest while Jesus prepared to serve them. In what areas of your life do you find yourself seeking status or recognition instead of looking for opportunities to serve?
6. How does knowing your true identity in Christ enable you to serve others more freely?
7. Leonard Bernstein said "second fiddle" is the hardest instrument to play. In what areas of your life are you struggling to play "second fiddle" or take a supporting role?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- Take time this week to reflect on your identity in Christ. Write down three truths about who you are in Him and how that impacts your daily life.
- If there's unconfessed sin in your life, take steps to address it. Consider finding an accountability partner to help you stay on track.
- Choose one act of service to perform this week without anyone knowing. Reflect on how it feels to serve without recognition.
- Identify an area in your life (work, church, family) where you can take on a "second fiddle" role to create more harmony. Share your plan with the group.

Scripture References (In order of use): John 13:1-5; Luke 9:1-2; Jeremiah 17:9; Jude 22:23; James 5:16; Luke 22:24; John 13:15

Referenced Works: Canne, Browne, Blayney, Scott (The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge); Addresses on the Gospel of John (H. A. Ironside); The Beloved Disciple's Memoirs and Letters (Bob Utley); John: That You May Believe (R. Kent Hughes); The Gospel of John (Jack Wilson Stallings)

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1: The Timing of God's Love

Reading: John 13:1-3

God's love is not just powerful, but perfectly timed. Jesus knew "his hour had come," yet He chose to demonstrate the fullness of His love. Reflect on moments in your life when God's timing seemed perfect. How has His love been revealed to you in unexpected or crucial moments? Consider how you can trust God's timing, even in uncertainty. Today, practice patience and attentiveness to God's presence, knowing that His love is always at work, even when we can't see it.

Day 2: Guarding Your Heart

Reading: Jeremiah 17:9-10; Jude 1:20-23

The human heart is complex and prone to deception. Even Judas, who walked with Jesus, fell prey to temptation. This serves as a sobering reminder of our need for constant vigilance. How are you actively guarding your heart against subtle compromises? Reflect on areas where you might be "cracking open the door" to temptation. Commit to building stronger accountability relationships within your faith community. Remember, our greatest defense is staying close to Jesus and supporting one another in love.

Day 3: The Power of Humble Service

Reading: John 13:3-5; Luke 22:24-27

Devotional: Jesus, knowing His divine authority, chose to serve in the most humble way. This radical act confronts our own pride and desire for recognition. Where in your life – at home, work, or in your community – are you resisting opportunities to serve others? Consider how your position or abilities could be used to lift others up rather than elevate yourself. Today, look for a specific way to serve someone unexpectedly, remembering that true greatness in God's kingdom is measured by our willingness to serve.

Day 4: Unshakeable Identity in Christ

Reading: John 13:3-5; Ephesians 1:3-14

Jesus' security in His identity allowed Him to serve without fear of losing status. As followers of Christ, our core identity is also secure in Him. Reflect on how truly embracing your identity as God's beloved child might change your actions and attitudes. Are there areas where insecurity is holding you back from loving and serving others freely? Meditate on the truths of who you are in Christ, and ask God to help you live from that place of unshakeable identity.

Day 5: Harmony in the Body of Christ

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Philippians 2:1-11

Like an orchestra needs both lead and supporting instruments, the body of Christ requires diverse roles played with equal passion. Where do you find yourself resisting a "second fiddle" position? How might embracing a supportive role create beautiful harmony in your relationships or church community? Consider areas where you can champion and encourage others in their gifts, even if it means taking a less visible role yourself. Pray for a heart that values unity and mutual support over personal recognition..

DEACONS ON CALL

Johnny Davis and Ed Watson

SCHEDULED EVENTS

- **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **SMALL GROUPS:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **DEEP DIVE:** Wednesdays at Noon & 6:45 PM
- **FIRST KIDS:** Wednesdays at 5:30 PM
- **FIRST YOUTH:** Wednesdays at 5:30 PM

