

Upper Room Questions

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Scene Summary

This play “Upper Room Questions” is based on John chapters 13 and 14. The scenes include the disciples coming into the upper room...Jesus washing the disciples feet...the Passover meal is served...the betrayer, Judas Iscariot leaves...Jesus teaches the disciples about the events ahead...the Love of the Father and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture

(John 13 NIV) It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. {2} The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. {3} Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; {4} so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. {5} After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. {6} He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" {7} Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." {8} "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." {9} "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" {10} Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." {11} For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. {12} When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. {13} "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. {14} Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. {15} I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. {16} I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. {17} Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. {18} "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.' {19} "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He. {20} I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me." {21} After he

had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me." {22} His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. {23} One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. {24} Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means." {25} Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" {26} Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. {27} As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him, {28} but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. {29} Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor. {30} As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. {31} When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. {32} If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. {33} "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. {34} "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. {35} By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." {36} Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." {37} Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." {38} Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

(John 14 NIV) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God ; trust also in me. {2} In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. {3} And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. {4} You know the way to the place where I am going." {5} Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" {6} Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. {7} If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." {8} Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." {9} Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? {10} Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. {11} Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. {12} I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. {13} And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. {14} You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. {15} "If you love me, you will obey what I command. {16} And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- {17} the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. {18} I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. {19} Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. {20} On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. {21} Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who

loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." {22} Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" {23} Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. {24} He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. {25} "All this I have spoken while still with you. {26} But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. {27} Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. {28} "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. {29} I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. {30} I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, {31} but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. "Come now; let us leave.

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Players

- **Narrator** – The play’s “catechist” or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Jesus** – God’s One and Only Son.
- **John** – Sitting close to Jesus, John listens carefully to the Master.
- **Peter** – Sometimes loud, Jesus renamed him from shifting sand to a rock.
- **Judas** – The disciple who betrayed Jesus.
- **Thomas** – This disciple needs the facts and wants to know the way.
- **Philip** – The disciple wants to see the Father.
- **Judas (not Iscariot)** – The disciple asks if now is the
- **Disciples** – More disciples can be added to the table as needed.

Special Props

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.
- Tableware, plates, dishes, cups, etc.

Script - Upper Room Questions

Narrator: It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

[some disciples begin to serve the food, to pass around plates and platters.]

Narrator: Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.

Jesus: [gets up from the meal, wrapped a towel around his waist, pours water into a basin and begins to wash his disciples' feet]

Peter: Lord, are you going to wash my feet?

Jesus: You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.

Peter: No, you shall never wash my feet.

Jesus: Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.

Peter: Then, Lord, not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!

Jesus: A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.

Narrator: For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

Jesus: [finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place] Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

[pause]

Jesus: I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me.

Disciples: [in a low voice] Lord, is it I?

Peter: [motioning to John] Ask him which one he means.

John: [leaning toward Jesus and speaking quietly] Lord, who is it?"

Jesus: [speaking to John] It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.

Jesus: [Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon...As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.] What you are about to do, do quickly.

[Judas gets up from the table and leaves]

Jesus: A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Jesus: Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. My children, I will be with you only a little longer. Where I am going, you cannot come.

Peter: Lord, where are you going?

Jesus: Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.

Peter: Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.

Jesus: Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

Jesus: Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God ; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.

Thomas: Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?

Jesus: I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.

Philip: Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.

Jesus: Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

[pause]

Jesus: Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in

you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

Judas not Iscariot: But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?

Jesus: If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Disciples: [to one another] What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."

Jesus: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

[pause]

Jesus: [getting up from the table] Come now; let us leave. [The disciples follow offstage.]

The End

Supplemental Information

It is approximately 33 AD, the Passover meal, in the Upper room with His disciples. It is late in the evening, with the disciples, somewhere in Jerusalem. These next few hours, the transition occurred, the 'new' covenant came to pass. The 'old' covenant became history. Jesus and the whole human history hinges on these few hours. This is where we look back to, the hinge of history.

The table was U shaped. They were reclining at the table. Judas was seated at the place of honor, the right hand of the head where Jesus was seated. John was at the left of Jesus, and Peter would be across the table from Jesus and John.

Passover was a 'remembrance' of the exodus from Israel. They would “do it again” to participate in the Passover, to reenact, to relive event. They spread the table with bitter herbs, unleavened bread, lamb and cups of wine. They spoke of 'we' came out of Egypt. They participated in the event.

As they came in the door, nothing to do with Passover, but common courtesy, there was a pitcher of water to wash their feet. The youngest, most likely John, should have done it. It was a lowly job, usually given to the lowest slave. The disciples were talking of what position they would have in the kingdom, who would be the greatest. Jesus would be seated at the head of the table; Judas at the right, John at the left. Normally the host would begin the meal by getting up and washing his hands. Jesus begins the meal by getting up; he takes off His robes and becomes a servant. John records, “He came from God and He knowing He would return to God.” It is because of that fact, that God became man, that is the way God is. He washed their feet.

Feel the atmosphere of the upper room. Jesus brings humility by washing their feet, the traitor leaves, they will be scattered shortly, and they begin to wonder if this is what is really going on. They were unsettled and confused, they thought Christ would take over the government and rule the Romans. Jesus says trust in Him, 'let not your heart be troubled'.

Thomas asks for a map. Jesus answers with a Person. Himself. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. No man comes to the Father but through Jesus. His purpose is to lead us to the Father. The gospel is coming to the Father, through Jesus. Remember He is talking about Father's house. He is the Way, the only Life, the only Way.

Philip asks, show us the Father. They wanted to see the glory of God. Jesus is trying to comfort them, to give them strength, to help them through the times to come. He gives to them His revelation of the Father. He displays, or reveals, the Trinity to these confused disciples. The disciples thought no one could replace Jesus. Jesus said it was far better that the Holy Spirit come. It is the Holy Spirit who reveals Christ.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35 NIV) Take that seriously, Love as Jesus loved? That is a terrifying command, yet when we draw from His exalted humanity, in helpless dependency we draw on the Holy Spirit. “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:26-27 NIV) We are sharing in the nature of Jesus, we are out of this world, even as Christ is not of this world. Even as the Father loves Christ, He loves us. The Father

delights in His Son, and He delights in us as we are joined to Him in union. This is heavenly math, $1+1=1$. The Holy Spirit connects us to the living God and we become one. Intimate union.