

AFTER DINNER

"...so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet..." John 13:4-5

Most of us enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner with family or friends this past Thursday. Most likely, you dined on some foods that are common to the holiday and probably richer in calories than your normal diet. So, what did you do "after dinner"? Did you go into a Tryptophan coma? Watch pro football? Visit with family? Go for a walk? In John chapter 13 is recorded part of what went on during the Last Supper with Jesus and his disciples. Little did they know the rude awakening about to occur "after dinner". The events of that Thursday dinner had far-reaching influences on a series of events over the next 50 days and beyond. But Jesus took that "last" (wasn't really the last) encounter with his disciples to prepare them for the coming challenges to their character and spirituality. From this chapter, there are four takeaways we could benefit from as we go from Thanksgiving to Christmas and beyond.

John 13:1-11, 36-38 – THE TEST OF FAITH

A dynamic faith will enable us to understand the purposes and character of Jesus better as well as enable us to defeat discouragement and empower us to live victoriously in the times ahead.

As various times in our lives, we will need the:

- **Faith Power** to _____ me. *"He is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."* Hebrew 7:25
- **Faith Power** to _____ me. *"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."* Philippians 4:13
- **Faith Power** to _____ me. *"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."* Philippians 4:19
- **Faith Power** to _____ me. *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* Joshua 1:9

John 13:12-17 – THE TEST OF CHARACTER

"Watch your life and your doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." 1 Timothy 4:16

John 13:18-30 – THE TEST OF ADVERSITY

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions... 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself? This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.'... Be dressed, ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet... You must also be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." Luke 12:15, 20-21, 35-36, 40

John 13:31-35 – THE TEST OF DISCIPLESHIP

"Truly I tell you, anyone who gives a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward." Mark 9:41

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but many.... Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27

"My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you." Galatians 4:19