

Act 3 Scene 9 The Washing of the Feet

Script taken from [John 13:1-7](#), [Matthew 26:14-39](#), [Luke 22:24-27](#)

CAST	
Jesus	We are largely dependent upon the four Gospels for what we know about Jesus and his life. Jesus met growing opposition from the Pharisees and others who regarded him as an unorthodox rabbi. He travelled to Jerusalem for the pilgrim festival of Passover, aware he was going to die. After sharing a farewell meal, the Last Supper, with his disciples, he was arrested and the following day handed over to the Romans Governor, Pontius Pilate, who condemned him to death by crucifixion.
John	When Jesus called James and John to be his disciples they were two ordinary fishermen. John is most likely to have sat next to Jesus at the Last Supper.
Thomas	Thomas is better known as 'doubting Thomas' for his insistence in needing to see and touch Jesus' wounds before believing he had risen from the dead
James	When Jesus called James and John to be his disciples, they were two ordinary fishermen. James and John, together with Peter, were the closest to Jesus.
Philip	A disciple who came from Galilee. Called with Nathaniel
Andrew	A disciple and the brother of Peter and also a fisherman. Called with Peter and James and John while fishing.
Simon Peter	Peter was one of the closest disciples to Jesus, together with James and John. His faith was strong but he was rash and hot headed at times. His original name was Simon.
Bartholomew	Peter was one of the closest disciples to Jesus, together with James and John. His faith was strong but he was rash and hot headed at times. His original name was Simon.
Judas	Judas was the disciple who betrayed Jesus. Little is known of him apart from the fact that he looked after the disciples' money bag
Matthew	The Apostle Matthew introduced himself as a tax collector in his own book. It was possible that Matthew was one of the wealthiest disciples of Jesus
Judas son of James	Judas son of James also known as Thaddaeus or Jude is not to be confused with Judas Iscariot . Judas is a name which was common among Jews at the time and the Apostle Jude was one of Jesus' most mysterious and lesser-known disciples
Servants 1, 2, 3	Although servants are not mentioned in the bible scripture, we can imagine that they would be present at the Last Supper. The home that had the Upper Room, would have been a wealthy home. All of the preparations for the Passover feast would have already been made by the servants before the disciples arrived. The servants usually washed the feet of guests before they ate, as the roads in the city were dusty, and it was the end of a long day. Servants would also replace food on the table when needed.
Mary Jesus' mother	We hear lots about Mary at the beginning of Jesus' life. She might have been present at this special meal.
Mary Magdalene	Mary from Magdala, was very brave and followed Jesus to the cross even when others had deserted him. She might have also been present with Jesus' others friends during this time.

For more information on the people that encountered Jesus, see the '**people profile**' area of the website

The table for the Last Supper is set on the middle level as in earlier years. Servants place plates, fruit and bread. The Disciples enter from various points and collect their own goblets. Jesus arrives and beckons them all to sit and standing in the centre speaks.

JOHN: See Master. We have prepared a room for you just as you asked us.

JESUS: In my father's house there are many rooms. I am going there to prepare a place for you and will come back and take you 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 light. No one comes to the Father except through me. Whatever you ask in my name, with faith, He will give you.

JAMES: But Lord we have not seen the Father.

JESUS: How long have you been with me

JAMES: 3 years.

JESUS: 3 years. Do you not know that he who has sent me has seen the Father—the Father is in me and I am in Him. The words I say to you are not just my own. Know that the Father is in me and believe the evidence of the miracles you have seen.

PHILIP: Lord, why is it you have shown yourself to us and not rest of the world?

JESUS: You are my disciples. When I am gone, go out and spread my word to all the world ...

ANDREW: But it's not safe without you!

JESUS: ...and tell them that, by me, God became man. PHILIP: But Master!

JESUS: Be not afraid.

PHILIP: You know we need you.

JESUS: Let not your hearts be troubled, neither be afraid. Peace I leave you. My peace I give you. Not as the world gives peace, but as I give peace.

SERVANT: This is our work.

JESUS: Come with me.

Jesus stands and by a gesture indicates that a towel, bowl and jug of water are to be brought by the servants. He washes James' feet and then another.

JESUS: Please.

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

JESUS: You do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand.

PETER: No Lord. You will never wash my feet.

JESUS: If I do not wash you, you have no part with me.

PETER: Then Lord, if that be so, not just my feet, but my hands and my head also!

JESUS: He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, his whole body is clean and you are clean. But not every one of you.

He washes a few more disciples and then stands.

JESUS: Do you understand what I have done for you?

DISCIPLES: No master we don't understand.

JESUS: By this example I have shown you what you should do for each other. You call me 'Teacher' and you call me 'Lord' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord & Teacher, have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet, I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor a messenger greater than he who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. My children, yet a little while I am with you. Where I am going you cannot follow. I give you now a new commandment: 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. Be not afraid. I am with you always - even unto the end of time.

