# Encountering Jesus in the Gospel of John
## Part 7

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READ and REACT (John 12–13)

INSTRUCTIONS
The purpose of this reflection is to give you a quick sense of the passage. Rather than going deep, you’ll be skimming the surface. Consider this a top-down overview of the GPS map rather than the turn-by-turn directions.

Begin with prayer.

Read the entire passage, twice. Make every effort to ensure that you won’t be interrupted. If possible, read the passage out loud the second time. Hearing, even when it’s your own voice, engages another part of your brain.

As you are reading the second time, make a note of at least one verse or phrase that fits into each of the following categories:

ENCOURAGEMENT
What words, phrases, or verses are uplifting or inspiring for me?

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CHALLENGE
How is God calling me to think or act differently?

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CONFUSION
What words, phrases, or verses don’t make sense to me?

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Reflection 2

SURVEY and STUDY (John 12:1-49)

INSTRUCTIONS

The goal for this reflection is to apply the “2PROAPT” Bible study method to this passage. This method will help you dig deeper into the biblical text to hear God speak.

PRAY

Write out a prayer to God, asking Him to speak to you clearly.
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PREVIEW

Quickly read the passage once. What is one thing that stood out to you?
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READ

Slowly read the passage a second time. What is something new that stood out to you?
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OBSERVE

Read the passage again for deeper understanding. Answer some or all of the following questions:

(a) What is the basic summary of events? How would you retell this in your own words?

(b) Who are the major players?

(c) What are some keywords or phrases?

(d) What comparisons or contrasts are made in this passage?

(e) What is confusing about this passage? What questions does it raise?

(f) Write a one-sentence summary of the meaning of this passage.

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APPLY
For you personally, how is God calling you to think or act differently, based on this passage?
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PRAY
Ask God for the strength to live in obedience to Him.
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TELL
Consider one or two people you might see this week. What might you tell them about what you learned in this passage?
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Reflection 3

SURVEY and STUDY (John 13:1-38)

INSTRUCTIONS
For guidance, follow the instructions found in Reflection #2.

PRAY
Write out a prayer to God, asking Him to speak to you clearly.
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PREVIEW
Quickly read the passage once. What is one thing that stood out to you?
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READ
Slowly read the passage a second time. What is something new that stood out to you?
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OBSERVE

Read the passage again for deeper understanding. Answer some or all of the following questions:

(a) What is the basic summary of events? How would you retell this in your own words?

(b) Who are the major players?

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APPLY
For you personally, how is God calling you to think or act differently, based on this passage?
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PRAY
Ask God for the strength to live in obedience to Him.
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TELL
Consider one or two people you might see this week. What might you tell them about what you learned in this passage?
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UNDERSTANDING and TRANSFORMATION (John 12:1-49)

INSTRUCTIONS

This reflection is divided into two sections. The first part, called UNDERSTANDING, puts the spotlight on the text. The goal of these questions is to help you dig into the details of the passage so that you might discover the timeless principles God wants to teach you. The second part is called TRANSFORMATION. The goal of the reflections in this section is to help you listen to how the Holy Spirit wants you to apply these principles to your life.

Work through the questions at your own pace. They are intended to be an on-ramp, not a parking spot. If one doesn’t make sense, skip it. If your reflections move in a direction away from the questions, excellent! Our prayer is that you will grow in your understanding of God’s Word and be transformed by His power.

UNDERSTANDING

Read John 12:1-49.

Why did Mary pour the expensive perfume on Jesus’ feet?
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Consider Judas’ question and his motives (John 12:4-6). Do his impure motives invalidate his question? Why or why not? If his question is invalid because of his motives, why did Jesus answer it? If his motives didn’t impact his question, why are they included in the Bible?
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ENCOUNTERING JESUS in the GOSPEL OF JOHN PART 7
Re-read John 12:23-26. What are the actions of a person who serves Jesus?

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Some people believed Jesus, some didn’t—even those who experienced His “miraculous signs.” In your opinion, why did people respond to Jesus differently?

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How does chapter 12, particularly verses 44-49, explain the relationship between Jesus and the Father?

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TRANFORMATION

Mary honored Jesus extravagantly. Judas thought it was poor stewardship. In your own faith, how can you know the difference between extravagant, but legitimate sacrifice versus poor stewardship?

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What did Jesus mean when He said, “You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me” (John 12:8)?

John 12:43 describes one of the problems with the Pharisees: “They loved human praise more than praise from God.” In life, we will always have the tension between “playing” for the crowd or for God. For you personally, where does pride show up? What situations trigger your desire please the crowd rather than God?

We are called to not just hear Jesus’ words, but to also keep them. Based on your study of this chapter, what have you heard and how can you “keep” them?
UNDERSTANDING and TRANSFORMATION (John 13:1-38)

INSTRUCTIONS
For guidance, follow the instructions found in Reflection #4.

UNDERSTANDING

How did Jesus show his disciples the “full extent of His love” (John 13:1)? In your own words, explain the meaning of John 13:1-16.

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When Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, it wasn’t just a powerful example of serving—it was utterly shocking for a Rabbi to dress and perform the duties of a slave. What could be a modern-day equivalent of this event?

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In John 13:19, Jesus said, “I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He.” Why did He say this? Didn’t the disciples already believe in Jesus?

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Jesus said that Judas would “betray him” (John 13:21) and that Peter would “disown/deny him” (John 13:38). Is there a difference between these two actions? Are there any indicators in this chapter that they might be different?

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TRANSFORMATION

Humility enabled Jesus to serve His disciples by washing their feet. How does your pride keep you from serving others?

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In chapter 12, we read about the extravagant worship of Mary toward Jesus. In chapter 13, we see the extreme servanthood of Jesus toward his disciples. In these narratives, we find great pictures of loving God and loving others. In your personal life, which of these do you need to work on? Where do you feel God is leading?

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What does this chapter reveal about Peter’s character? In what way do you struggle with the same kinds of mistakes?

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Re-read 13:34-35. In this scripture we have the model and motivation to love others. We are commanded to love one another because Jesus loves us. When we love one another, the result will be that outsiders will know we belong to Jesus. With such a powerful model (Jesus) and motivation (others knowing Jesus), why is it still difficult to love others? Which is more inspiring for you: that Jesus loved us, or that others will know about Him? Why?

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Reflection 6

PAUSE and PRAY

Use the ACTS method for and extended time of prayer. Incorporate your learnings from this study into your prayer.

ADORATION

How can I specifically praise God for who He is?

How can I acknowledge God’s presence in my life?

CONFESSION

What do I need to confess to God?

What do I need to confess to others?

Who do I need to forgive for what they’ve done to me?

THANKSGIVING

How have I been blessed? What am I thankful for?

What am I hearing from God? What is He showing me?

SUPPLICATION

Where do I need help from God?

What do I need to surrender to God?


How is God calling me to encourage others?

What Scripture or truth do I need to reflect on?
MEDITATE and MEMORIZE

INSTRUCTIONS

Psalm 119 says, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. . . . I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes” (Ps. 119:11, 99).

Biblical meditation is focused thinking on God’s Word. If you know how to worry, you know how to meditate. Worry never helped anyone, but meditation has infinite value. When we have God’s Word, we are positioned to sin less and gain more insight. Holiness and wisdom are the rewards for meditating and memorizing God’s Word.

Choose one of the verses below (or pick your own from the readings) and write it on a 3x5 card so that you can easily read it several times a day. Consider its meaning for your life: how is God speaking to you through this scripture verse?

Additionally, take some time to commit the verse to memory. When you are tempted, God can’t bring a verse to mind if you haven’t taken the time to “hide” His Word in your heart!

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

**John 12:25** Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

**John 12:44-45** Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me.”

**John 13:15-17** I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

**John 13:34-35** A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.