

## *"My Love for You is Unconditional"*

My Child, my love for you is not based upon your intentions. It is not based upon the promises you have made in your enthusiasm, and later broken in times of weakness. My love is based upon the covenant I have made to you. There will be times in your life when the good that you will do, you will not do (Romans 7:19). There will be times when you think you are able to stand strong... But *let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid*. I will use these times to teach you of My unconditional love.

Unclean

Read John 13:1-17. It is easy to relate to Peter's feelings of unworthiness. Imagine the King of Kings and Lord of Lords taking the humble position of a slave at your feet. How would *you* react? What did Peter's refusal to allow Jesus to wash his feet indicate about his heart for Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

As Jesus humbled himself before them, a critical point was made that we dare not miss. A servant is not greater than his master, nor was one of them greater than the other. Why was it imperative that the Lord demonstrate and then point out this truth before he addressed their weaknesses? \_\_\_\_\_

While in the act, Jesus said, "*You are not all clean.*" Their minds must have gone over everything they had said and done since the day they left all to follow Him. When you sense the Lord is calling you to examine your life, what is your response? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus had first made it known that one of their own was against Him in John 6:64-71—but we see no one questioning.

Read John 13:18-30 and Matthew 26:21-25. The mood changed from zeal to sorrow in a matter of minutes. Jesus stated it plainly this time. "*Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.*" Read the following verses and list their responses:

John 13:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 26:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 22:23 says, "*Then they began to question among themselves, which of them it was who would do this thing.*" Continue reading their response in Luke 22:24.

Matthew 26:25 says, "*Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, 'Rabbi, is it I?' He said to him, 'You have said it.'*" Judas' words must have come as a shock and a relief to each of them.

*Because He First Loved Us: "My Love for You is Unconditional"*

The disciples had just witnessed Jesus washing the feet of a sinner—the worst of sinners—while possessing full knowledge of his traitorous plans. If Christ had been unwilling to wash Judas’ feet, what would that mean to us? Were we not all enemies of God before we were spiritually cleansed? (Romans 5:10). \_\_\_\_\_

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### Stumbling

Read Matthew 26:31-35. “*All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night.*” The disciples clearly missed the promise that followed the prophecy. Record verse 32 in the space provided. \_\_\_\_\_

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Peter’s vehement statement gives us a glimpse of his heart’s desire to follow Christ—even unto death. Picture *yourself* screaming out, “No! I will never forsake you. I love you!” From his statement we also learn that Peter had exalted himself above the rest, considering himself incapable of ever committing such a dreadful act.

Have you ever thought yourself unable to commit a certain sin? Is it an area you feel particularly strong in? Do you tend to neglect this area in your prayer life? What does this indicate? Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13. Instead of refuting Jesus’ words, what could Peter have done to guard himself from stumbling? \_\_\_\_\_

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When we feel confident in our own strength, we are often unwilling to apply God’s words to ourselves. Like Peter, we ignore His warnings. Grave danger comes when we believe we are unable to stumble. Read Romans 12:3.

### Without Conditions

The disciples’ confidence was shaken. The unsuspected treasurer had left to carry out his plans. The strongest among them would deny Him. Thomas now doubted and Philip was unsure of all he had seen.

In John 14, Jesus began by saying, “*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me*” (NIV). As if to say, “You will all stumble in many things (James 3:2)—but this is part of walking with Me. I have not asked you for a flawless performance, to be strong when you are unable, but to believe upon the promise I have made to you.”

Write out the following verses in the spaces provided. Let them be a testimony of God’s absolute promise and commitment to walk beside you even when you stumble.

Hebrews 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_

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Psalm 139:7-10 \_\_\_\_\_

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1 Peter 5:10

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John 14:27-28a says, *“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 have heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you’ ”* (NIV).

In closing, read Hebrews 10:22-23.

John 13:1 says, *“Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love”* (NIV).

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