

## **“At the Table: Honor”**

by  
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**What** In this script, Matthew and John recount the events of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet. This is the fifth scene from the collection, “At The Table,” and can be performed as a standalone performance or combined with the other monologues to form a full play depicting the thoughts and reflections of the disciples and others as they prepare and sit down for the Last Supper with Jesus.

Themes: Easter, Last Supper, Passion Week, Washing Feet, Showing Love

**Who** Matthew  
John

**When** Biblical Times

**Costumes  
and  
Props** Matthew and John wear biblical attire.

**Why** John 13:1-17

**How** This is a simple scene that is easy to stage. The stage can be bare if performing as a stand-alone monologue, or there can be a long table with twelve stools, goblets and plates and a loaf of bread if performing as part of “At the Table”.

**Time** Approximately 3 minutes

*Matthew and John enter and cross to center.*

**John:** I was not expecting that.

**Matthew:** I know. Why would he do a thing like that?

**John:** He's the Messiah—he can do whatever he wants.

**Matthew:** I know he *can* do it. I just don't know why he *would*. Even Peter was startled.

**John:** I don't think anyone of us knew how to react when we saw our teacher...our Messiah, kneeling at our feet.

**Matthew:** When we should've been the one kneeling at his.

**John:** Right. But that's Jesus for you—always doing the unexpected.

**Matthew:** But why now? Why today?

**John:** I don't know. Maybe because it's Passover?

**Matthew:** We've celebrated Passover with him before and he's never washed our feet.

**John:** Yes, but something about this Passover seems different.

**Matthew:** What do you mean?

**John:** It seems as if everything he does and says lately is to prepare us for a time when he won't be with us anymore.

**Matthew:** I know. He's also been talking a lot about the way we should treat one another when he's gone. Truthfully, it's starting to get a little depressing.

**John:** *(excitedly)* Say that again!

**Matthew:** *(confused, slowly, unsure)* It's getting...depressing?

**John:** No...the other part.

**Matthew:** *(thinking, unsure)* He's been talking about the way we should treat one another?

**John:** Yes! That's it I get it now.

**Matthew:** You do?

**John:** That's why he washes our feet, isn't it? *(laughs, ruefully)* I don't know why I didn't see it before!

**Matthew:** Are you planning on sharing this new-found realization?

**John:** Don't you see? Everything Jesus says and does is a lesson.

**Matthew:** That's true. He really does love a good parable.

**John:** This time the lesson wasn't in the form of a story. This time, Jesus taught us a lesson with his own actions. You see, just as Jesus humbled himself at our feet—his friends and followers—taking our tired and dirty feet into his own hands and washing them clean, so he wants us to do the same for others in his name.

**Matthew:** He wants us to go around washing feet?

**John:** No... *(closes his eyes and shakes his head, trying to get his point across)* I mean yes, if need be... *(closes his eyes and shakes his head again)* I mean, no! You're missing my point.

**Matthew:** *(chuckling)* Don't worry, I know what you mean.

**John:** *(crossing his arms and raising his eyebrows, not believing him)* You do?

**Matthew:** By washing our feet, Jesus wanted us to know that we must humble ourselves in service of others.

**John:** Go on.

**Matthew:** *(thinking and realizing)* I know that Jesus wants our love and attention, and as his disciples, we spend each day giving him all that we have. But I can see now that he doesn't want all of our love for himself. He wants us to spread that love throughout the land by giving of ourselves to others.

**John:** *(surprised)* Wow! I think you've got it.

**Matthew:** And in that way, more than anything else, we truly honor him.

**John:** *(with a smirk)* Okay, now you're just showing off.

**Matthew:** *(shrugs his shoulders)* I just feel like I understand Jesus a little better now.

**John:** You're welcome.

**Matthew:** *(ignoring him, suddenly having an idea)* And I feel like, if one of us really understands Jesus, like understands him better than anyone else—

**John:** *(interrupting him)* You did hear me say that Jesus wanted us to *humble* ourselves, right?

**Matthew:** (*ignoring him*) Then maybe one of us should start writing some of this down—these lessons Jesus is teaching us.

**John:** That's not a bad idea. Maybe you should.

**Matthew:** (*smiling*) Maybe I will. (*outstretches his arms and starts to walk toward John*) Thanks for all your help, buddy.

**John:** What are you doing?

**Matthew:** I'm giving you a hug.

**John:** (*holds up his hands*) We're good. You don't have to.

**Matthew:** Are you sure?

**John:** I'm sure. (*starts walking offstage; Matthew follows*) What's gotten into you today, anyway? You're not normally much of a "hugger".

**Matthew:** What can I say? (*smirks*) I'm just trying to spread the love.

*Matthew and John laugh and exit. End of scene.*