

# **The Great Gamble**

Sermon Series: *IMAGINE*

March 1, 2015

## **INTRODUCTION**

Most of us want to live lives of purpose and meaning. The world tells us that the way to find happiness and fulfillment is to indulge yourself and meet your needs first and foremost. In other words, it's all about you and what you can get out of it! Jesus' message, however, is a radical departure from the majority opinion. He instead calls us to live a life of service and self-denial.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What qualities and traits typically mark a person who is totally self-focused and self-absorbed?
2. In what ways does our culture promote this self-serving lifestyle? Give some examples of how you've seen and/or experienced this firsthand.
3. In what areas of your life today are you most prone to adopt a self-serving attitude? Which is more overt and which is more subtle in your life?
4. Read John 13:3-17. Describe and summarize in your own words what's happening in this passage. What are some of the things you observe as you read and reflect on these verses?
5. Why do you think that Jesus chose to show His disciples rather than simply telling them? How does knowing that this event occurred just hours before Jesus was arrested and ultimately crucified help shed some more light on this passage?
6. What do you think are some of the main reasons why we tend to keep the focus on ourselves? Do you see evidences of this mindset in the life of the church? If so, how?
7. How can we begin to model the example of Jesus as found in our passage for today? What are some tangible ways we can live this out?

## **CLOSING THOUGHTS**

The truth is, we're all doing one or the other of two things: we're either living for ourselves or we're reaching beyond ourselves. Jesus invites us to take the Great Gamble. He calls us to follow Him and see if it isn't really true that the pathway to the abundant life in all its fullness is a life of willing service to Him and others.

*13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. – John 13:13-16*