

# Living Beyond Myself

March 8, 2015

## INTRODUCTION

Our culture constantly reinforces this idea of living for the self: self-gratification, self-improvement, self-help, self-image, etc. We see this all over the place in advertisements, social media and even in the Church. However, God's Word communicates a very different picture of the self that flows contrary to what popular culture often tells us. The message that we hear over and over from Scripture is that of self-denial, self-sacrifice and living a life of selflessness.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does popular culture promote this idea of the self? What is often the message we hear from the media? Share some examples of how you've seen and/or experienced this firsthand.
2. Do you see evidences of this in the life of the church? If so, have you seen this manifested? What are some examples of how the church focuses on this idea of the self?
3. Read John 2:1-11. 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?
4. As you observe what these servants did. What are some things that you notice from the manner in which they serve?
5. Read Philippians 2:1-4. What does the Apostle Paul have say about this idea of the self? Why do you think we are called to live in this manner?
6. What are some practical ways we can start living beyond ourselves? What should be the motivation for this based on the message we heard today?

## CLOSING THOUGHTS

God desires for us to be a community that reflects these verses. As the body of Christ, we called to be the hands and feet of Jesus within, and more importantly, outside our walls, to live beyond ourselves, because we believe that more can be accomplished when we choose to be a blessing to others rather than just for ourselves.

This is why we settled on this theme of "**Living Beyond Myself**" for 2015. Our desire is that we would be a church filled with people who choose to flow against the current of popular culture and live beyond themselves in pouring out our time, talents, resources and finances for the sake of something so much bigger and greater than ourselves.

11 What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. – *John 2:11*