



This week: The Great Gamble

For the week of October 2nd, 2005

How to Use the LBM Scrolls

Welcome to the **Living Beyond Myself (LBM)** version of the Scrolls. Over the next 4 weeks, we at FBC will be exploring one of the great paradoxes of life: ***In order to find real life, you must lose it.*** Together we will examine and test this claim made by Jesus of Nazareth.

The Scrolls are designed to work in unison with our Sunday services to maximize what God wants to teach us during these 4 weeks. We live in a fast-paced world that can easily distract us from what Christ has for us. By setting aside time each day to work through the Scrolls we will be making room in our busy lives for God to teach and guide us.

The Spiritual Life Notebook (available Sunday mornings in October in the Plaza) provides a place for you to answer the questions in the Scrolls, record insights from Sunday morning messages and write down the things that God is teaching you. For more information about using the Spiritual Life Notebook and the Scrolls, see the insert that came with your notebook.

As a companion to the LBM Scrolls, **Small Group materials** will be available each week for Home Groups and Small Groups (at the Info Table in the Plaza or online at www.fbcdavis.org).

Beauty and the Beast

In the Disney hit *Beauty and the Beast*, Lumiere the Candlestick, robustly serenades Belle with the wonderful song, "Be Our Guest." As scrumptuous foods appear one after another, he invites Belle to "relax, pull up a chair, as the dining room proudly presents your dinner." In the middle of his song, Lumiere laments,

"Life is so unnerving, for a servant who's not serving. He's not whole without a soul to wait upon. Ah, those good old days when we were useful... Suddenly those good old days are gone. Ten years we've been rusting, needing so much more than dusting, needing exercise, a chance to use our skills! Most days we just lay around the castle, flabby, fat and lazy, you walked in and oops-a-daisy!"

Is it possible that we too have been rusting and need a chance to use our skills? During our LBM emphasis, we'll have a chance to find out and grow together.

Monday – Chasing After the Wind

"In this world there are only two tragedies. One is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it." Oscar Wilde

1. Our culture claims to know the path to satisfaction and fulfillment. What is that path according to our pop-culture? Please read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11. What strikes you about Solomon's quest for satisfaction and fulfillment?
2. Read John 7:37-39 and John 10:7-10 (focus on vs. 10). What did Jesus claim about satisfaction and fulfillment?

Living Beyond Myself – What do you think it would look like to have a life that is fulfilling and abundant? Is there something from Jesus' words that you'd like to remember during your day today?

Tuesday – Taker or Giver

"The desire to be a world-changer is planted in the heart of every human being, and that desire comes directly from the heart of God. We can suffocate that desire in selfishness, silence it with the chatter of competing demands, or bypass it on the fast track to personal achievement. But it's still there." Bill Hybels

1. Take a moment to remember what Solomon concluded in Eccl. 2:1-11. Now read Mark 8:34-37. How do Jesus' words help us understand the loss of life that Solomon was experiencing?
2. Our world says, "Take care of number one. It's all about you." Jesus said, "Give and it will be given to you." Why is living your life as a "taker and grabber" a bad strategy for living? Why is living as a servant a good strategy?

Living Beyond Myself – Is your life more like Solomon's or is it more in keeping with what Jesus says? Or is it a mix of the two? Conclude your time today in prayer, asking God to show you more clearly his way of living.

Wednesday – Number One

1. Please read Mark 10:35-45. In your own words, write down what you think John and James are requesting of Jesus. How is their request similar to the way many choose to live their lives today?
2. How might you have responded to the request of James and John? How does Jesus respond?

Living Beyond Myself – We are taught that in order to be great we must rise above others in one way or another (be smarter, make more money, have more power, etc.). Jesus says "no" to that way of thinking. In what ways are you pursuing the world's way of greatness? In what ways are you pursuing Jesus' way of greatness?

Thursday – Washing Feet

1. Today's reading takes us to a well-known story involving Jesus and his followers. Take a look at John 13:1-17, underlining the words or phrases that stand out to you. How does this passage help us to understand what it means to "live beyond myself"?
2. Who does Jesus called "blessed" in this story? It is not those who agree with Jesus who are blessed. It is not those who find this story touching who are blessed. The blessed ones are those who obey and join Jesus in serving and giving to others. Can you think of anyone who lives a lifestyle of service and giving to others whom you truly consider to be "blessed"?

Living Beyond Myself – What is one simple thing you could do today to serve someone else? Plan your day so that you are able to do it.

Friday - The Great Gamble

1. Now that you have spent the week hearing what Jesus has to say on the subject, reread Eccl. 2:1-11. How does it read differently in light of what you have learned this week about living beyond yourself?
2. The Great Gamble we all must consider is, "Will I take Jesus at his word and live my life accordingly?" Read John 10:34-35 one more time. In practical terms, what does such a life look like (consider the way you use your time, money, gifts, talents, etc.)?

Living Beyond Myself – We don't drift into a life of caring for and serving others. It requires intentionality on our part and the help of God's Spirit. What is one change you would like to make in your life as a result of what we have looked at this week?

Weekend - Use the weekend to review the spiritual insights you have written in your Spiritual Life Notebook.