



LIVING BEYOND MYSELF

THE SCROLLS

This week:
Saying Yes to God!
For the week of 10/30/2005

Welcome to final week of the **LBM Scrolls**. The Scrolls is best used with a *Spiritual Life Notebook*, which is available Sunday mornings here at FBC. For more information about using the *Spiritual Life Notebook*, see the insert that comes with it. The Scrolls, along with companion materials for small groups, is also available online at www.fbcdavis.org.

Yes!

We say “yes” to lots of things. Some of those yeses are simple and easy to make (like saying yes to a good friend who invites you over for dinner). Other times, saying yes involves great risk and courage. Theodore Roosevelt had something to say about that kind of “yes.”

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

It is tempting to stay on the sidelines and spectate. God, however, calls us as his children to enter into the arena of love and service to others. The initial question is not one of success or failure, but rather one of simple willingness – the willingness to say yes to God.

Monday – Called into Service

1. Can you remember a time when you were asked to do something that seemed over your head? What did it think and feel like? Read Exodus 3:1-12. What were Moses’ life circumstances (prior to verse 2)? In other words, what factors preoccupied his attention?
2. Why was Moses hesitant to say “yes?” What did Moses think about his qualifications for the job? When Moses objected, how did God respond (see vs. 11-12)?

Living Beyond Myself – Can you remember a time when you sensed God calling you to join him in service? Did you feel adequate or inadequate for the task? How does God’s response to Moses help you in your feelings of inadequacy?

Tuesday – Strength to Serve

“Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you.” Jesus of Nazareth

1. Read John 15:1-8. What does it mean to bear fruit in service? How does fruit bearing relate to the glory of God?
2. In whatever service we do for God, it is always a temptation to rely primarily on our own strengths and abilities. Which strengths do you have that you most often rely on? What does this passage say about the resources needed for service or ministry?

Living Beyond Myself – During an average day of an average week, how do you go about staying connected to Jesus the Vine? What does it mean for you personally to abide (or literally “live”) in Christ?

Wednesday – Servant’s Heart

1. Perhaps you’ve heard it said about someone, “she’s got a real servant’s heart.” What do you think it means to have a servant’s heart? Read about the ultimate servant’s heart in Philippians 2:1-11 (focus on Phil. 2:5-11).
2. Here we learn that at the very core of his being, Jesus assumed the role of a servant. What did Jesus need to do in order to assume the identity of a servant? What reward accompanied his decision to do so?

Living Beyond Myself – When you think about yourself what words normally come to mind to describe you (leader, student, teacher, housewife, husband, Christians, etc.)? Do you ever think of yourself as a servant? Why or why not?

Thursday – Perseverance in Serving

“Not enough is said or written today about finishing well. Lots and lots of material is available on motivation to get started.... All of it is insightful and needed. Getting off the dime is often a Herculean task.... But let’s hear it for the opposite end for a change. Let’s extol the virtues of sticking with something until it’s done.” Charles Swindoll

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Apostle Paul

1. Think for a moment about some of the difficult tasks you’ve taken on in your life. Which one was the most challenging to see through to the end? Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8, the Apostle Paul’s last words before his death. Paul wrote this in his final days, after years of being in service to Christ. What strikes you about his words?
2. Why do you suppose Paul finished his years of service in the way he did? In other words, what enabled him to finish so well? What was Paul looking forward to?

Living Beyond Myself – It has been said that we are not ready to live until we are ready to die. In regards to your faith and service for Christ, how do you want your final days to go? What would you like to hear Christ say to you when you first see him in glory?

Friday – Choosing Service

“I’ve never seen anyone drift into [a life of service to others]. The drift is always towards selfishness and self-absorption. Anyone who ever becomes a [servant] becomes one at a point in time where they decide that that’s going to be the direction of their life.” Bill Hybels

1. Choosing to be a servant of Christ is counter-cultural in just about every way. Read Joshua 24:14-15. Joshua maintains that every living person serves something or someone. What are some of the gods of our age that people serve? Which ones are most tempting for you to serve?
2. In your *Spiritual Life Notebook*, write verse 15 in your own words. What goes into making the kind of decision that Joshua made to serve God and God alone?

Living Beyond Myself – Have you ever made an intentional decision to **serve** Jesus Christ with your life? If you have, take some time today to reaffirm that decision. If you never have, would you consider making that decision today?

Over the weekend – Review some of what you have written in your *Spiritual Life Notebook* during the “Living Beyond Myself” emphasis. What are the big things that God seems to be impressing upon you? Ask God to give you the grace to take the next step closer to him.