

## **WHY I SERVE**

February 15 & 16, 2014

### **YOU CAN EITHER GAMBLE YOUR LIFE AWAY OR YOU CAN INVEST YOUR LIFE IN OTHERS.**

John 13:4-17 (NLT)

<sup>4</sup> So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, <sup>5</sup> and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will." <sup>8</sup> "No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." <sup>11</sup> For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean." <sup>12</sup> After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing?" <sup>13</sup> You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. <sup>14</sup> And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

**YOU WILL BE YOUR HAPPIEST IN LIFE NOT WHEN OTHERS ARE SERVING YOU BUT WHEN YOU ARE SERVING OTHERS!**

**1. SERVING RESULTS IN CHRIST-LIKENESS.**

You are never more like Jesus than when you are **SERVING**.

**2. SERVING RELEASES BLESSING.**

*<sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.*

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 (NLT)

*I said to myself, "Come now, let's give pleasure a try. Let's look for the 'good things' in life." But I found that this, too, was meaningless. <sup>[2]</sup> "It is silly to be laughing all the time," I said. "What good does it do to seek only pleasure?" <sup>[3]</sup> After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with wine. While still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I hoped to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world. <sup>[4]</sup> I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards. <sup>[5]</sup> I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees. <sup>[6]</sup> I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves. <sup>[7]</sup> I bought slaves, both men and women, and others were born into my household. I also owned great herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who lived in Jerusalem before me. <sup>[8]</sup> I collected great sums of silver and gold, the treasure of many kings and provinces. I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire! <sup>[9]</sup> So I became greater than any of the kings who ruled in Jerusalem before me. And with it all, I remained clear-eyed so that I could evaluate all these things. <sup>[10]</sup> Anything I wanted, I took. I did not restrain myself from any joy. I even found great pleasure in hard work, an additional reward for all my labors. <sup>[11]</sup> But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless. It was like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.*