



[Leader Note: We typically do this series every January, but you can take out the new year reference and begin it like you would any other message.]

The new year is full of resolutions.

New year, new me. Right? People say that. I have been saying it for everything: new office, new me; new PS4, new me. It works. But here is the truth and this is what we are going to be talking about for the next few weeks: if you know Jesus, there is a new you.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)**

***This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!***

If you know Jesus, you are a new person. He doesn't just make you good. You were not just bad, and then you were good. He makes you alive. You were a dead man or woman walking, and Jesus made you new.

With a new life comes a new set of desires and things we are called to.

Naturally, we are selfish in our thinking. We are born this way.

[Leader Note: I use my son as an illustration of how we are naturally born selfish. You can use your own child or children in general.]

Graham, my boy who is turning one next month, is getting to this age where if you don't allow him to have something he wants, he screams like a pterodactyl. I didn't teach him that. It's amazing how selfish we can become if we don't watch ourselves.

Have you ever been around a selfish person? Someone who is in a group of people, but they don't seem to care at all about the well-being of the group; they just want to do what they want to do. It doesn't matter if there is a better option, a better place, a better thing. If it's not what they want, they throw a fit until they get their way. What is the feeling when you are around those people?

Don't you walk away from the conversation with a stank face and bad taste in your mouth?

I don't know about you, but I don't want people leaving when they interact with me with that feeling.

We naturally tend to fill up our lives with ourselves. There always comes a time in your life where you need to clean out your closet. Christmas just happened, and you got some new clothes, new shoes, and now you have to make room for the new stuff. You clean it out. Out with the old and in with the new.

Because of Jesus, and we know we are a new person when we have Him, what if we were to clean out the inner closet of ourselves?

We chase after things:

[Leader Note: you can pick whatever you want, but here is a list of what I had as examples and pulled the pictures of Google.]

TV SCREEN OF PICTURES:

- Xbox
- PS4
- clothes
- relationships
- cars
- phones
- coffee
- Netflix
- Comfort

What if we were to clean out our inner closets and refill it with the heart of Jesus? I have said it many times: if you know Jesus, it is impossible for you to remain the same. I understand that not all of you do, and that is okay. My prayer is that one day you will know the life-changing power He has to offer, and you can become a new person and have your sins forgiven.

But why would we not want to begin the new year with the same heart and desire of Jesus, who at the core of His message, was about serving others?

What if we were to replace the things in our closets with people?

[Leader Note: You can replace my examples with your friends and family to make the point.]

TV SCREEN OF PICTURES OF MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

- Mom
- Dad
- Brother
- Kristin
- Graham
- Kevin
- Jeremiah

So, let me ask you a question:

If the heart of Jesus is service, how close is your heart to Jesus' heart?

New year, new you, right? We can't have a new you without a change of heart of where your priorities lie.

Here is what I hope you have for the year:

The right view of God,  
The right view of self,  
The right relationship with others.

If I can, I would love to convince you that when we have the right view of God, of ourselves, and the relationship with others, this year could be the best, most life-giving year of your life.

I love the Bible, because it's not just some random book of ancient writings; it's something that is still relevant today. The same problems and struggles people had in Jesus' times are the same struggles we have today. The disciples of Jesus were selfish all the time. They fought for themselves, they cared about looking good, having power, being right, looking right, saying the right things, and Jesus taught them the same thing we still are being taught today.

So, let me set the scene. Jesus is in the last few hours of His life. Remember this as we move forward: the last few hours of his life. He is with His disciples in the upper room, one of the most famous scenes.

Let's take a look:

*Luke 22:19-24 (NIV)*

19 He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

20 After supper, he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you."

21 "But here at this table, sitting among us as a friend is a man who will betray me. 22 For it has been determined that the Son of Man must die. But what sorrow awaits the one who betrays him." 23 The disciples began to ask each other which of them would ever do such a thing.

24 Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them.

This is one of the most intimate moments with Jesus. He was about to die, and they are being selfish and were arguing. Talk about ruining a moment. This is like you're on a date, and it's going very well. You are flirty, you guys are laughing. He pushes your hair away from your face. She touches your knee. You lean in for the kiss and...

You let out a fart (sound).

Talk about ruining a moment.

The disciples begin to ask who is the greatest among them?

Isn't this how we think? Do we try to prove who is the best among us?

How many likes we get, RT's, who has the best memes.