

Sermon Notes  
**Say Yes: Live Generously**  
*Luke 10:30-35; 2 Corinthians 8:1-4; Acts 2:34-36*  
David Renwick  
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**I. Saying “Yes” to God is Truly Important!**

i. God wants our lives to be like a field with good soil

yielding a bumper crop (Matthew 13:23)

.. fruitful, effective, productive

.. experiencing God’s “deep gladness” (Buechner)

*1. Do you believe this?*

*2. Do you find this easy or hard to believe? Why? Why not?*

ii. Saying “Yes” is easy for some – but not spoken freely!

-- but sometimes because of fear of what other may think, say or do

*3. Can you describe a time when you allowed yourself or felt pressures to say “Yes” to one person, but your “Yes” led by default to saying “No” to someone or something far more important? Or to unintentionally changing your priorities?*

iii. The “Yes” we say to God should be

thoughtful, prayerful, committed, re-arranging priorities intentionally

- to Reach Out – *Salt and Light* (Matthew 5:13,14)
- to Join In/Up – *Not good to be alone* (Gen. 2:18);  
-- *Jesus is where the small group is* (Matthew 18:20)
- to Live Generously

*4. Describe times when you have done this?*

*5. Has it been easy or hard?*

*6. What or who has helped you move forward?*

**II. Living Generously**

i. Ben Gill (“The Joy of Giving”)

“The happiest People on earth are the people who learn the joy of giving”

*7. Who have you met for whom this is true?*

“The model of generosity set by my mother”

*8. Do you know a significant person to you, who is a ‘model of generosity’? Has it been easy for them? Could they have chosen a different path/attitude?*

*9. Have you ever been a part of a truly generous church in which many members tithed to the church (10% of income given to Christ’s church?) What ministries could they/ did they fulfil with their resources? Were they happy and effective as a congregation?*

ii. Inspired by the Model of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:34-25)

The Samaritan 1. went to him and 2. bandaged his wounds, 3. having poured oil and wine on them. 4. Then he put him on his own animal, 5. brought him to an inn, 6. and took care of him. 7. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and 8. when I come back, 9. I will repay you whatever more you spend.’

*10. What else, apart from money, does the Samaritan share generously?*

iii. Inspired by the Model of Jesus

For you know **the generous act** of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, for our sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty, we might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9

(Greek) “Charis” = “Generous act” = Grace

“Charisma” = gift/giftedness

*11. In what ways is Jesus like the Good Samaritan in his generosity/grace to us?*

*12. Knowing the generosity of Jesus . . . of the Good Samaritan . . . of a model . . . what steps of generosity do you think God is calling you to take? Financially? In other ways?*

*13. What’s blocking the path forward? What would help you move forward?*

*14. If anyone in the group has taken Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University, please share . . . think about taking?*

**EXTRA: Read Acts 2:34-37**

*Is this a model for church life that we can, should follow? What are the benefits? Pitfalls?*