

Say Yes To God

Hope Chapel Honolulu

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.
(John 15:13-16, ESV)

Introduction

While I almost titled this fifth topic in our series on membership “Becoming Servants And Friends Of God,” and while that is the really the desired outcome of what I will share today, saying “yes” to God is where we all must begin. Many will recognize 1Samuel 15:22-23’s well-known “to obey is better than sacrifice” but were you aware that this theme continues through Psalm 40:6-8, Proverbs 21:3, Isaiah 1:11-17, Jeremiah 7:22-23, Micah 6:6-8 and Hebrews 10:6-9? We can learn much from a comparative study of the lives of King Saul and King David, but the greatest difference between these two kings may have been how they responded to God’s grace and goodness toward them. While David did not live a perfect life, he consistently returned to the place of recognition and appreciation of God—what we may call “worship”—and did his best to hear and obey what God told him to do. Will you choose to say “yes” to God?

1. You are not just called to serve God but to become His friend. (John 15:1-17)

- a) You were made in the image and likeness of a divine community both to be loved and to love.
- b) Don’t allow pride, selfishness or rebellion keep you from serving God by loving others.

2. Offer yourself to God by humbly serving others. (Romans 12:1-13)

- a) Offer your heart, soul, mind and strength to love and serve God by loving and serving others.
- b) Learn to discern the will of God, develop your gifts and character, make your best contribution.

3. Say “Yes” to God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength. (Ephesians 2:1-10)

- a) Recognize what God has done for you and then show and tell others what God has done.
- b) What does it mean to say “Yes!” to God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength?

Conclusion

While some of us are without the physical or material strength to serve and support others—the spiritual strength expressed through intercessory prayer is still a great contribution!—I believe that for most of us, it should not be a matter of giving *OR* serving, but of giving and serving in love and gratitude for the great work of calling, justification and glorification (Romans 8:30) God has begun in us. What has God entrusted you with to give? How has God gifted you to serve? What are those God-given relationships, roles and responsibilities and how will you grow in love, faithfulness and fruitfulness?

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

- 1) What do you think is your God-given gift? How can improve your serve?
- 2) What is your best contribution? Who would benefit most from your contribution?
- 3) How did God use you in 2018? What is He trying to do with you in 2019?

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