

Lent Study 2020

“Yes Jesus, but...” – the disciple’s reactions to Jesus’ last week of teaching

SMALL GROUP LESSON 1

Based on Sermon from 3/1/20

“Yes Jesus, but isn’t that a little too much?” (Matthew 26:6–13)

INTRODUCTION

You might want to consider opening your study with a re-watching of the C&MA Metro District video by Rev. Kelvin Walker, especially if there are those in your group who were not in church: **Metro District Video (5 minutes)** - <https://vimeo.com/385308728>

Read together:

Rev. Walker asked three questions:

- *Am I ready to dream bigger?*
- *Am I ready to be part of God’s work beyond me?*
- *Does God have my YES for all God wants to do in and through me?*

Think about your honest answer to each question. These questions are meant to be a challenge, to make us honestly question our own hearts and motives, and make us assess where we are in our faith journey.

Question: What is your reaction to these questions – do they make you Afraid? Questioning? Excited? Doubtful? Hopeful?

Read together this introduction to our Lent study:

As we enter into Lent, we are going to look at the teachings of Jesus during his last week on earth from a different perspective - from the eyes and hearts of the disciples. It seems that they often heard what he said, nodded their heads, and said, “YES JESUS..... but.” But..

- *Surely YOU aren’t going to leave us*
- *Surely YOU shouldn’t wash our feet*
- *Surely I will never deny You or leave You*
- *Surely now You’re going to rescue us from the Romans*

We see that even with Jesus – the Light of the World, Creator of all – right in front of them, they often got it wrong, and couldn’t say yes to God – but instead said, “Yes Jesus, but...” They were still giving Jesus only a partial YES. They still had THEIR own ideas about what Jesus should do.

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Most of us can relate! We also, when faced with something God is asking of us, calling us to do, or when confronted with something in His Word, we often say, “Yes Jesus, but...”

- *But what if it affects my family, or my finances, or my job?*
- *But what if people will think I’m crazy or that I’ve gotten too “religious”?*
- *But what if I might be called to move, or change jobs, or change a relationship?*

We are going to be learning this Lent about taking the “buts” out of our “yesses” to God!

Question: What are some specific “buts” that come to mind when we think of following God and obeying God 100%? Can anyone give an example from their own lives?

MOSES

If you’re in the habit of saying, “Yes God, but...” you’re in good company. Let’s look at Moses:

Read together Exodus 3:1 – 4:17. As you are reading, make note of all the “buts” Moses raised with God during this exchange:

Question: What was God’s reaction to Moses’ protests?

Question: How was Moses used by God despite his “buts?”

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Read this together:

There are four reasons we often say “Yes, but...” to God. They are:

- 1. We don’t understand the bigger picture or God’s perspective. We only see things through our own lens, and our own experiences. Like a child who wants to eat cookies for dinner, we can’t see how what God is asking of us is actually for our good.*
- 2. We’re afraid of change, and of what saying yes to God might mean to our family or jobs or life. We don’t like the thought that in saying yes to God we’re giving up some of our own control over our lives.*
- 3. We’re weak in the flesh – we have great plans and hopes to say yes to God but don’t have the will or self-control to follow through. We want to – we really do! – but we constantly take back our YES.*
- 4. We didn’t count the cost – when we decided to follow Jesus we didn’t think it would mean THAT. We want to keep our faith in a small, safe, controlled place in our lives.*

Question: Do these resonate with any of you? Are there other reasons we say, “but...” to God?

Question: Is anyone willing to share a story about when they said “Yes Jesus, but...”? Can you share which of the four reasons you had for saying “but?”

SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL FOR GOD

Read together Matthew 26:6–13

Question: Who was saying “Yes Jesus, but...” in this story? Why? (also see John 12:1-8)

Read: The disciples probably wouldn’t have minded someone washing Jesus feet with oil. It was only THIS oil – very expensive oil – that prompted them to say, “but...” It seemed a little too much! In the sermon on this topic, it was said that one of the messages of this story is this:

It is time that we stop seeing our faith as something that we do in moderation.

Question: What do you make of this statement? Do you agree or disagree?

Question: What are ways that we keep our faith “in moderation?” Is this good or not?

Question: How might Jesus be calling you to say yes to Jesus and love Him by pouring out our best, most valuable possession at the feet of Jesus?

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SAYING YES AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Read together:

As a church body together we are saying yes to:

- **Financial obedience** – bringing the whole tithe into the storehouse
- **Participation in the body** – seeing each person using their gifts and serving
- **Strong leadership** – trusting our Board to step forward in their spiritual authority even as we go through changes as a church
- **Expecting God to show up** – relying on the Holy Spirit to do what only He can do

As individuals we are saying yes to:

- **Following Jesus** – starting the journey with Jesus if you never have before
- **Going deeper with Jesus** – deciding to make your spiritual life with God a focus this Lent, and listening for His voice
- **Removing the “buts” from our “yesses”** – giving God our 100% yes to whatever He tells us

As you spend a few moments in silence, allow God to speak to you about these areas. Where is God asking you to say yes as a gift of love to Him?

FOR PRAYER

As you share prayer requests, think about sharing:

- What is “something beautiful for God” that God is prompting you to say yes to?
- How can we pray for you to have the strength and courage to say yes, and to say yes as a gift of love to God?

Read this together to close:

“Here in the Metro District, we are Spirit filled, renewal seeking, Bible teaching, healing believing, gospel proclaiming risk takers, who learned from our founder that people who advance the kingdom are presence dwellers who say yes to Jesus even if they’re called to walk in a way they never walked before.” – Rev. Kelvin Walker