

12-03-2023, COTR Texarkana, Missionary Larry Myers sharing the pulpit

Title: God Can Do Big Things When We Say Yes

Purpose: Inspire people to follow the example of a great Christian leader and make a significant impact for Christ with their life.

Truth for Today: God can do big things through us when we say yes.

Text: Hebrews 11:1

Topic: Significance, Legacy, Mentor, Leadership, Faith, Obedience

God Can Do Big Things When We Say Yes

I. Introduction

- A. Today I'll be sharing the pulpit with Larry Myers. Christmas tradition for 30+ years
- B. Larry Myers: 86 years old, married and in ministry 66 years, raised on the banks of the Ms. River in La., became an AG pastor in Texas, God called him to Mexico...but he didn't have money and didn't speak Spanish...but he said yes. Today # pastors/ congregations are a part of Mexico Ministries, #churches built, #hospitals, # orphanages. God can do big things through us when we say yes.
- C. Today will be a generational mentoring message. He'll tell you what he's learned about God in his lifetime; I'll tell you what I've learned from him as a spiritual father.
- D. Title: "God Can Do Big Things When We Say Yes". I'm going to share what I learned from him as a spiritual father. I hope it inspires you to do something significant with your life for Christ.

II. Spiritual lessons I've learned from brother Larry Myers

- A. CAMERA I learned about hearing the Holy Spirit and acting in faith
 1. [Heb. 11:1 (NCV) knowing that something is real even if we do not see it. James 2:22 (NLT) You see, his (*Abraham's*) **faith and his actions worked together.**]
 2. A Chiapas pastor asked Larry to build him a church building, Larry promised to build it without having the money. I asked him where he'd get the money and he said, that's God's problem. The Holy Spirit told me to do it and I said yes. Faith 1st hears God and then acts. I applied this when we bought an empty building called *Gander Mountain* for \$4.5 million. We started remodeling during covid when society was shut down. Thank you!
- B. CAMERA I learned to care for the poor and needy
 1. [Ps. 41:1 (NLT) Oh, the joys of those who are **kind to the poor!**]

2. I remember helping expand a big, modern church building in Monterrey. I also remember Larry saying his favorite place to go was to the villages where the people were poor. Pic Moses 5 hours south of Monterrey in the desert. We slept in tents and at night ate beans and tortillas in a big room with 1 light bulb.
 3. Pic young boy with a cleft palate and getting him surgery. I remember building a ministry center for Mexican drug addicts. Helping the poor and needy is what Jesus said defines true Christians in Mt. 25. When I was hungry you fed me, naked you clothed me...Larry taught me poor and needy people matter to God and they should matter to me. Thank you!
- C. CAMERA I learned that sometimes Christians must take a risk to answer God's call, even if it means risking our lives to share the gospel.
1. Acts 15:25–26 (ESV)...our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶ **men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**] About 40 years ago the magazine, *Christianity Today*, said the Chamula Indians in Chiapas, Mexico were one of the most violent people groups in the western hemisphere. They were an unreached people group for the gospel. Larry was one of the 1st missionaries to go there and today there are tens of thousands of the descendants of the Mayan Indians who now believe in Jesus.
 2. My 1st trip there we stopped at a stop sign and he told me a pastor was killed by villagers with machetes as he was trying to start a church. Ron Hammonds, "Jesus told us to go; he didn't say we'd come back."
 3. I haven't faced death for serving Jesus, but I have experienced the wrath of people for preaching the truth of God's Word. Larry gave me courage. Thank you!
- D. I learned serving Jesus isn't always easy. Sometimes we face hardship and sacrifice.
1. [2 Cor. 11:23–27 (NLT) servants of Christ... ²⁶ I have **traveled on many long journeys**. I have faced **danger** ²⁷ I have **worked hard and long**, enduring many **sleepless nights**. I have...often **gone without food**.]
 2. He began his ministry in a room overlooking a garbage dump in Atoyac. On one trip he had 2 flat tires and rolled them down a road in search of a gas station.
 3. All we talked about is because 2 people said yes to God. None of it would have happened without the prayers, sacrifice, and hardship his

wife Mary Lou endured. She's home with a serious heart condition. She's watching online... Thank you!

4. One day Jesus will look in the eyes of every faithful servant of Christ and say, "well done, good and faithful servant." On that day, saying yes will have been worth it.

III. Conclusion/ Response:

A. Pic Moses [Psalm 39:4 (NLT) "**LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered...**"]

1. When this life is over, only 2 things will matter: (1) Did I believe and follow Jesus? (2) What did I do for Jesus with my life? God can do big things through us when we say yes to God.

B. Larry Prayer, *raise hand*, To fulfill the Great Commission, we need "*Goers, givers and prayers*": (1) I have a call to go to the foreign mission field, full or part time, (2) I want to ask God to bless me financially so I can support world missions in a more significant way... (3) I want to commit to pray more for world missions, for the gospel to go to every person in the world.

C. Christmas offering; App Guest speaker

D. Souls

IV. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

V. Supplemental Material

A. I learned about being humble as a leader.

1. [James 4:6 (ESV)... "God opposes the **proud** but gives grace to the **humble.**"]

- a. Always offering others the 1st Coca Cola on a hot concrete job. I never heard Larry demand money, privilege, or recognition. I've tried to follow his example.

B. Gal. 2:9–10 (NLT)... James, Peter, and John... recognized the gift God had given me... They encouraged us to keep preaching to the Gentiles...¹⁰ Their only suggestion was that we **keep on helping the poor**, which I have always been eager to do.]