173. SAVING FOR A PURPOSE - WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 28, 2026

Good morning, Grace Harbor – it's Dan. Happy Wednesday!

Well, just like it was National Pumpkin Day on Monday, we've got another food-related celebration today, and my guess is that this one's going to excite a lot more of you. It's National Chocolate Day!

I *know* we have some chocolate lovers out there! I'm definitely one of them. When all the candy hits this weekend, you can keep all of your fruity, gummy, and sour stuff. Give me the chocolate!

Although, the last time I said, "I don't like fruity candy – only chocolate," my daughter cleared her throat and said, "Well, actually, chocolate is made from the cacao tree – specifically the seeds inside the pods, which *are* considered berries, botanically speaking."

"And where did you learn this?" I asked.

"From a podcast," she replied, shrugging. And then she said, with a mischievous look in her eye, "Hey, so can I have fruit with my breakfast tomorrow morning?"

"Nice try," I replied.

Well, inspired by the Harvest Bonfire coming up this weekend, we're reflecting on the theme of generosity this week. On Monday, I shared the three rules that John Wesley

had for generosity: earn all you can, save all you can, and give all you can.

Yesterday, we counted our blessings, which showed us just how much God has given us. How many things we have in our lives to be thankful for.

Today, let's look at that middle rule, save all you can, because it can easily be misunderstood. We might think it means hold onto as much as you can. Store it all up. When we do that without a purpose, there's another word for that. It's not saving, it's hoarding.

When Wesley taught these rules, he meant for us to save with a purpose. To save with intention. To have a plan for what to do with what we are earning and saving.

Grown-ups do this with money all the time, setting some aside for the things we need, and sometimes we're able to set some aside to give away.

Now, when Wesley taught these rules, he was mostly thinking about money. But these rules can apply to more than just money – which is great news because it means we can *all* be generous!

The key, though, is being intentional about making a plan. Probably most of us like the idea of being generous and helping – especially when we see a need we care about. But I've found both in my personal experience and in the lives of the people I've pastored, it's a lot harder to give spontaneously, in the moment. It's not impossible. But, of

course, it’s a lot easier if you intentionally set something aside with the goal of giving it away.

So, what I would love for you to talk about together today is this: what are some things that *aren’t* money that you can intentionally choose to be generous with?

Let me give you one example to get you thinking. Maybe your family loves books, and you have a whole bookshelf full of books you love but you might not read again – either because you’ve grown out of them, or you’re more interested in books you *haven’t* read yet. You could go through your shelf and pull out books you’d love to share with others, and put them in a box to give to a friend or donate somewhere.

Got the idea? Ok, go ahead and talk about that now. If you need more time, feel free to pause the podcast, and I’ll be right here when you get back.

[PAUSE]

Now, here’s where we take the next step in the practice. Whatever you named, can you find a way to get started today? Maybe you’re ready to go be generous, and that’s great – go do it! But, like with the example of the books, maybe today you pick out one book or a couple of books and set them aside, just to get started. I find with practices like this, it always helps to get some momentum going.

Ok, let’s close in prayer. If you want to, you can close your eyes and fold your hands.

Dear God, we thank you that generosity is something we can practice with anything you've given us. Whether it's something like money or our things, or it's something like our time, attention, and care, we always have something we can share. Give us eyes to see the opportunities and hearts to respond. Amen.

Ok, Grace Harbor, have a great Wednesday, and I'll see you tomorrow.

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