

EXCUSES

July 12, 2020

Today we want to speak on the subject of excuses.

This is actually a major subject in the Bible.

First of all, let's give a definition for the word - "excuse".

- It is "an explanation to release myself from my responsibility."
- It gives many reasons and rationalizations to justify myself.
- My unusual circumstances, have made me free from my obligations
- An excuse is "to exempt myself from a fault"

Jesus gives a parable; He does not allow excuse making.

What man calls reasons, God calls excuses.

This parable is a divine invitation to the marriage feast of the lamb. But so many people make excuses why they cannot be there.

Luke 14:16,17 "... A certain man made a great supper, and invited many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready." And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it: please have me excused.

And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: please have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

Luke 14:18-24. So that servant came, and showed his lord these things. Then the master being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the lame, and the blind.

And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.”

**I think we understand the interpretation of this parable.
God is calling many to be at the marriage supper of the lamb.
He is calling many unto everlasting life, and salvation.**

But here are some of the excuses that man makes:

- Oh I don't have time for spiritual matters, please excuse me.**
- My schedule is too hectic.**
- My business occupies so much of my life.**
- I have to take care of my home and family.**
- My background - I was not brought up that way.**
- My physical condition limits me.**
- I had a terrible childhood. My parents were hypocritical.**
- A pointing of the finger - my husband, my wife, hinder me.**

But often, what man calls reasons, God calls excuses.

Excuses are a false confidence!

I have discharged myself of my duty for very legitimate reasons.

They think God will accept their excuses; but He will not.

Man creates a case in his mind that justifies his actions.

Something I have observed in life:

People do what they really want to do; they make time / means for it.

And what people really do not want to do, they make excuses.

Find ways around it

People do what they really want to do;

Some love His appearing / others dread His appearing

2 Timothy 4:8 -

“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

Others dread his appearing. They cry out for the mountains to cover them and hide them from his face at his coming.

Revelation 6:16 “And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:”.

Why do some people love His appearing, others dread His appearing.

Jesus is the light, he is the truth.

If you love the truth, and obey the truth, you will love His appearing.

But if you love darkness, you will dread His appearing.

Excuse making is avoiding the light.

God wants people who are not looking for excuses.

He wants people who will face the light, and be changed.

Shifting the blame to others

Excuse making is to minimize my faults...and to blame others...

To take away or make less my responsibility. Read Genesis 3:12-13:

When Adam ate the forbidden fruit, what did he say when God asked?

The woman you gave me, she gave me the fruit, and I did eat.

God said to the woman, what have you done?

She said the serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

Always shifting the blame and responsibility on to others.

Many create a case, to minimize their fault or failure. Excuses!!!

I am in this condition, because of the terrible home life I was raised in. My husband has been terrible to me, my wife ... unfaithful to me. This is the reason for my extra-marital affairs. I'm so lonely.

God is looking for people who will thoroughly face the light. Who will make honest confessions, not numerous rationalizations. And not look for excuses to justify their actions.

The importance of divine grace

Remember, there is grace to help in our times of need. All of us face great pressures at times, but Grace is always available. Let us read Hebrews 4:16:

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

When is Grace offered? In times of great need!

When we are tempted, discouraged, lonely, insulted, hurt, God can give us much grace to strengthen us, and help us in our time of need. Actually, there is no excuse to become bitter. Grace is available.

When we are hurt, we have a choice to make.

To receive grace, or to reject grace.

To become better or to become bitter. The choice is ours to make.

God allows situations to come to test us

If we do not really want to do God's will, we will find an excuse.

Consider the story in Ruth chapter 1.

Naomi and her husband and two sons, moved to Moab famine.

While there, her husband and two sons died.

The famine ended; Naomi was going to return to Bethlehem.

Naomi's two daughters in law wanted to return to Bethlehem with her. Lets read Ruth 1:10-11:

“And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people. And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

Naomi asked her to daughter-in-law's to stay in Moab. It was a test. One daughter kissed Naomi ...bye, and she returned to her own gods. But Ruth clave onto her, and remained totally loyal to her. Read...

Ruth 1:14-17 - “And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her. And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law. And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where you lodge, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.”

Ruth passed the test. She was loyal to her mother-in-law, and God. She came to Bethlehem, met Boaz, with married, And came in the messianic line. From her descended King David. And most of all, the Lord Jesus Christ descended from her. What a wonderful and eternal name she received. But when the test came, she was willing to leave home, everything.

Remember when Elisha was tested. Elijah was about to go to heaven. Let's read 2 Kings 2:2, 4: “And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Bethel.

And Elisha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel.” “And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.”

God allows situations to come to test us.

If we do not really want his will, we will find an excuse.

Elisha wanted the entire will of God for his life. He was tested.

Tarry here, go back home. No, I will not leave thee”.

Elisha wanted a double portion of the anointing,

To carry on the Ministry of Elijah. He passed the test. No excuses.

Stumbling blocks

God allows stumbling blocks, to see if we will be offended, turn back. In John 6:54, Jesus taught, whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood, has eternal life...”

Jesus was not teaching cannibalism. It was a test; many offended.

He is the living word, the bread that came down from heaven.

His blood gives us life.

He was telling them, to fully partake of him.

In verse 61, they were offended. In verse 66, many of his disciples turned back, and walked with Jesus no more.

Many were offended, they failed the test. They turned back.

If people do not really want to do Gods will, they make excuses.

Oh, he's teaching cannibalism. To eat his flesh and drink his blood.

It was test.

**In John 7:52 -the religious leaders contended:
There is no prophet to arise from Galilee.
What did Jesus do. He could've explained, I was born in Bethlehem.
He was raised in Galilee, he was born in Bethlehem.
It was a test. He could have defended himself.**

Friends, let's make the right excuses

**Let's find the right excuses - not to quit!
The apostle Paul said; I am a debtor, I owe my all to Christ.
I was the chiefest of sinners, and God rescued me.
I am indebted to share these truths with all men.**

In Romans 1:14 Paul said "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise."

**God is worthy of my very best.
He paid such a high price for me, for all of us.
By Gods grace, I refuse to be offended.**

**I do not care if I am unrecognized, or not appreciated.
If there are hypocrites in the church...
I want to try to be a good example to them.
I may not like my circumstances, but they are far better than some.
God has great things in store for those who wait for him.**

**I am in debt, Christ paid a huge debt for me.
I owe him my very best! My all.**

**God gave me His very best; I owe Him my very best.
Others need to hear the truth, help me Lord to be faithful.
To share your truth with many others. Amen!**

