

# EXCUSES



## Excuses And Reasons

Luke 14:18ff

## Why Aren't We?

**Why haven't I been the influence I need to be?**

**Why am I not as useful to the Lord as I could be?**

## From The Beginning ...

Satan has tempted man to make excuses from the beginning including

- **Adam and Eve**, (Genesis 3)
- **Moses**, (Exodus 4)
- **Aaron**, (Exodus 32)
- **King Saul**, etc.

Let's recognize up front that **when I make such excuses it makes God angry with me.** (Exodus 4:14)

Let's also recognize that **excuses will cost us our souls and keep us from heaven.** (Matthew 25:30; Luke 14:24)

## Watch Out For Excuses!

**What's the difference between reasons and excuses?**

Often, **from our perspective, reasons.**

**As God sees it, excuses.** (Luke 14:18, 20)

**A matter of personal accountability.**

**Are there truly "reasons" we can't ... sometimes?** (Health, accidents, etc.)

**Can legitimate reasons become excuses?**

**Do not be deceived, God is not mocked!** (Galatians 6:7)

## Common Excuses ... "I Don't Have Time"

We "**find**" time for whatever we choose.

How we "**spend**" it reflects our priority and will determine our destiny! (Ephesians 5:15-21; Psalms 90:12)

**"I'm too busy"**! (Matthew 13:22; Luke 10:38-42)

**1st thing first!** (Matthew 6:33)

**Selfish or selfless?** Looking to Jesus ...

**Can't undo the past ...** (1 Peter 4:1-3)

## Common Excuses ... "I'm Too Old/Too Young, etc."

**Be careful about using our age as an excuse.** (Jeremiah 1:6; 1 Timothy 4:12; Ecclesiastes 12:1; Psalms 71:9; Titus 2:1-8)

The "**proper working of each individual part**" includes every age! (Ephesians 4:16)

It requires that young and old seek to influence for the good of the body and will of God.

Common Excuses ...

### "I Don't Know Enough"

**How long are we going to play that card?**

(Hebrews 5:12-14)

**How much do we need to know to begin?**

**How seriously do we take our Bible studies?**

(2 Timothy 2:15)

**No better way to grow** than to teach others what you do know!

**No one learns more than the teacher!**

Common Excuses ...

### "Someone Else Could Do Better"

**What Moses and Jeremiah were reminded not to say!**

**You have opportunities to influence that no one else can take advantage of!**

**Always say "yes." Our adequacy is from God!**

(2 Corinthians 3:4-6)

**Opportunity is how we grow. Sometimes others see potential in us we don't.** (Luke 17:5-10)

Common Excuses ...

### "I Wasn't Aware"

**Be careful about willful negligence!** (2 Peter 3:5; cf. Matthew 25:37, 44)

We need to **"lift up your eyes"** (from what?) and **"look on the fields that, they are white for harvest."** (John 4:35)

We need to pray that we will **recognize doors of opportunity** and **make the most of them.**

(Colossians 4:3-6)

Luke 14:16-24

### The Parable of the Dinner

**Three excuses were given as to why they couldn't come –**

- 1. Possessions** – *"I bought a piece of land"* (verse 18; Luke 12:16ff; 18:18ff)
- 2. Work** – *"I ... bought five yoke of oxen ..."* (verse 19; 1 John 2:16; Philippians 4:11)
- 3. Family** – *"I have married a wife ..."* (verse 20; Matthew 10:32-39)

Matthew 25:14-30

### The Parable of the Talents

**One fatal excuse given, "I was afraid ..."**

- **Fear will cripple our influence ...**

(Joshua 1:6-9; John 14:27)

Often, we use the excuse of "fear" when it's really a matter of diligence versus laziness as Jesus said to the one who buried his talent, **"you wicked, lazy slave"** (verse 26)

Matthew 25:14-30

### The Parable of the Talents

Notice the blame placed on the **"Master"** when he said, **"I knew you to be a hard man ..."** (verse 24)

The point of this parable is to **take whatever God blesses us with** and **work with it** in service to Him to bear **"fruit"** in His kingdom. (Isaiah 5:4; John 15:2ff; 2 Chronicles 32:25; 1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

Matthew 25:14-30

### The Parable of the Talents

The use or lack thereof determines whether our story ends with *“well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master”* (verse 21) or

*“throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”* (verse 30)

### How Strong Are Our Reasons “Why”?

We’ve talked about our excuses/reasons **why not**.

Maybe our reasons for **“why”** aren’t strong enough!

1. The love of Jesus Christ! (2 Corinthians 5:14)
2. The salvation through the gospel. (Romans 1:14-16)
3. Heaven is that great and hell is that horrible. (2 Corinthians 5:10-11)

### What Is Your Reason For Not Obeying The Gospel Today?

- It’s not a good time? (Acts 24:25)
- I don’t know enough? (Acts 2:41-42)

***“Behold now is the acceptable time, behold now is the day of salvation!”***

(2 Corinthians 6:2)