

EXCUSES WILL DO YOU NO GOOD

1998 by Tim Dubberly & Mark Beard

Text: Luke 14:15-24

Several years ago there was a popular gospel song that said, "Excuses, excuses, you'll hear them every day. Now the devil will supply them if from church you'll stay away. When people come to know the Lord the devil always loses, so to keep those folks away from church he offers them excuses."

Excuses to stay away from church have been used so much that someone, in desperation no doubt, came up with what they hoped would be a fail-safe plan to get people in church. It's called a "No Excuse Sunday."

This is the plan.

Cots will be placed in the vestibule for those who say, "Sunday is my only day to sleep."

Murine will be available for those with tired eyes -- from watching TV too late on Saturday night.

There will be steel helmets for those who say, "The roof will cave in if I ever came to church."

Blankets will be furnished for those who think the church is too cold, and fans for those who say its too hot.

We will have hearing aids for those who say, "The minister speaks too softly" and cotton for those who say, "The preacher's too loud."

Score cards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present.

"In Jesus' day when you invited guest to dinner, you told them the day but not the exact hour of the meal. A host had to know how many guests were coming so he could butcher the right amount of animals and prepare sufficient food. Just before the feast was to begin, the host sent his servants to each of the guest to tell them the banquet was ready and

they should come. In other words each of the guest in this parable had already agreed to attend the banquet. The host expected them to be there.

But instead of eagerly coming to the feast, all of the guest insulted the host by refusing to attend, and they all gave very feeble excuses to defend their change of plans." (Wiersbe, 230)

Isn't it amazing how many people profess to be willing and ready to go to heaven, who say they love God as much as anyone else and yet they continue to turn a deaf ear to the pleading of the Lord to "come and dine." God is prepared to bless them -- to have fellowship with them -- to open the windows of heaven for them and yet despite what they say about loving God and wanting to go to heaven they make excuses and go on their way as if they will always have the opportunity to accept His invitation.

Look with me at the feeble *excuses* that they offered the host.

1. MY WEALTH IS TOO IMPORTANT (vv.17-18).

- a. His wealth was more important to him than the hospitality of the host (vv.17-18a).**

This mentality of "you have nothing to offer me" has ruined many.

- b. He was more interested in enjoying what he had than receiving what he was offered (v.18).**

Some people think that if they do not have it then it is not worth having.

2. MY JOB IS TOO IMPORTANT (v.19).

a. All he could see was that which "HE" could supply.

Vance Havner writes, "Men do not feel their need for God nowadays because they look to the labor union for retirement benefits, to the government for hospital care, to wonder drugs for their ailments, to tranquilizers for comfort. A pill averts consequences of immorality. Man is now his own judge of what is right and wrong. He has just about given God his walking papers." (Seasonings, 37)

b. He was a man on his way with no interest in what had been prepared for him.

He said of his oxen, "I am going to test them." He knew their quality before he bought them, it was just an excuse. His interest was only in doing what he wanted. What a mistake!

The wise man Solomon wrote in Ecc. 2:18, "I came to hate everything for which I had worked so hard under the sun, because I will have to leave it to the person who replaces me" (v.20).

3. MY FAMILY IS TOO IMPORTANT (vv. 19-24).

1. His commitment to his wife was only an excuse.

He knew well in advance that he was getting married when he said that he would come to the feast.

- 2. We may use others as an excuse for rejecting God's invitation but we cannot blame them for our missing out with God.**

Billy Sunday defined an excuse as, "The skin of a reason stuffed with a lie."

A few points to remember in (vv.21-24).

1. To reject God's invitation is to offend the Creator who gave His all for us (v.21)
2. Just as God turned to the Gentile people after the Jewish people rejected Christ; God will always search out those who will receive Him (vv. 21-23).
3. Ultimately, God will reject those who reject Him (v.24).

CONCLUSION

It's a well-known fact of human nature, we do what we want to do. This passage is concerned with exactly that; the will of man, in particular, the choices and excuses that we make when God calls us to come to Him for salvation or even a closer walk with Him.

Max Lucado offers this insight concerning those who don't seem to be able to make a clear choice about following Jesus Christ.

He writes, "You don't turn your back on Christ, but you don't turn toward him either. You don't curse his name, but neither do you praise it. You know you should do something, but your not sure what. You know you should come together, but your not sure why" (p.69).

If that statement speaks to you today then God is giving you one more chance to make a decision. The invitation has been extended. The choice is yours. What will you do with it?

References

Adapted from a sermon by Tim Dubberly

Chambers, Oswald, My Utmost for His Highest Barbour and Company Inc.

Havner, Vance, The Vance Havner Notebook Baker Books

Hewett, James S. ed., Illustrations Unlimited Tyndale House Pub.

Lucado, Max. Six hours one Friday.

Wiersbe, Warren W., The Bible Exposition Commentary Victor Books