

“Excuses – We All Have Them”

Introduction

1. ***“Excuses – We All Have Them”***
2. Excuse – definition...
 - a. “attempt to lessen the blame attached to a fault or offense”
 - b. “seek to defend or justify” – one’s actions or thoughts
 - c. “release someone from a duty or requirement”
3. ***Excuses – “We All Have Them”***
4. Excuses...
 - a. What some view as an excuse is to another a reason to decide against something or not to participate.
 - b. Many times, we see our own agendas, opinions, and convictions as correct and believe everybody else ought to have the same conviction or opinion.
 - c. If somebody disagrees, their reasoning is just an excuse not to follow suit.
5. Remind us of a fact...
 - a. We’re all different in personality, perception, purpose.
 - b. We need the differences for good balance.
 - c. Temperaments/personalities – different, but when there is no violation of Scripture, negotiable for good balance.
6. There is one standard – a plum-line – an authority over all in the middle of all our differences – the Master Designer – God and His Word.
7. With God and His Word, We All Have Had Excuses/Reasons not to follow what He’s said in His Word or how He’s convicted us in our heart.

I. Excuses for not following the Christ (Luke 9:57-62)

- A. Luke 9:57-62
- B. Lord, I want to follow you, but I have conditions.
 1. I want to follow you my way.
 2. I want to follow you in my timing.
- C. Sometimes it’s not necessarily a denial to follow, just a delay.
 1. I have things to do.
 2. I have a right to know where your taking me and what it will entail.
 3. I don’t want to be the only one following this way, so what about him? John 21 – Peter asking about John – and Jesus answered, that’s none of your business – you follow Me no matter what’s going on in someone else’s life.
 4. Peter was willing to die – but – what about him?
- D. Sometimes we miss the present moment with the Lord because we’re caught up with the past of people.
 1. Put another way, the track record of another.
 - a. I know what he/she will do.
 - b. I know what he/she will think
 - c. That builds in readymade defenses and fear.
 2. But shouldn’t he/she be held accountable – Jesus answers, Let Me take care of that – you follow Me.

II. Excuses for sin

- A. I did because...
- B. If he wouldn’t have done that...

- C. Someone else is to blame
 1. Adam and Eve in Gen. 3:12 and 13
 2. Adam – first recorded excuse – the woman you gave me made me do it.
 3. Eve – second recorded excuse – the devil made me do it.
- D. I didn't know.
 1. ^{NAS} John 15:22
 2. ^{NAS} Romans 1:18-20

III. Excuses for not believing God and His Word

- A. All of the excuses already mentioned fit in this point.
- B. Here – let's look at the consequence of excuses.
- C. **Excuses for not believing God and His Word (Luke 14:16-24)**
- D. We have our excuses, our reasons, but when it comes down to it, we choose to either believe God and His Word and follow it, or we choose to reject it.
- E. Oswald Chambers in *My Utmost for His Highest* --- "Will is the whole man active. I cannot *give up* my will, I must exercise it. I must *will* to obey, and I must *will* to receive God's Spirit. When God gives a vision of truth it is never a question of what He will do, but of what we will do."
- F. ^{NAS} Joshua 24:15

Conclusion – Excuses – We All Have Them. What is the Lord saying to you? Will you choose Him and follow Him no matter what?