

Expecting God To Accept Our Excuses

Luke 14:15-24

Intro. Taking A Look At The Text (Lk. 14:15-21)

- 14:15** When one of those at the meal with Jesus heard this, he said to him, "Blessed is everyone who will feast in the kingdom of God!"
- 14:16** But Jesus said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many guests.
- 14:17** At the time for the banquet he sent his slave to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, because everything is now ready.'
- 14:18-20** But one after another they all began to make excuses.
–**The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please excuse me.'**
–**Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going out to examine them. Please excuse me.'**
–**Another said, 'I just got married, and I cannot come.'**
- 14:21** So the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the master of the household was furious...

I. What Is An Excuse?

- W.E. Vine →
 - is used in the sense of "begging off, asking to be excused or making an excuse," in Luke 14:18 (twice), 19.
 - "a pretense, pretext" (from pro, "before," and phemi, "to say"), is translated "excuse" in John 15:22, RV, for AV, "cloke;" "cloke in 1 Thess. 2:5 AV and RV. (<http://www2.mf.no/bibelprog/vines?word=%AFt0000955>)
 - An excuse is that which in reality masks the truth.
 - An excuse is in reality a lie.
 - For failure to comply with God's will.
 - For refusal to fulfill our responsibilities.
 - For failure to resist temptation.
- In the parable, these excuse-makers care more for material things, earthly relationships, cares of the world than they did accepting the master's invitation. (Matt. 13:22; Lk. 8:14)
- Clearly, God was not pleased and did not accept their excuses...

II. Examples of Excuse-Makers...

- Adam and Eve: (Gen. 2:17)
 - 3:11-13 → Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" **3:12**The man said, "The woman whom you gave me, she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it."**3:13** So the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman replied, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."
- Moses: (Ex. 3:10-4:17)
 - **4:13** But Moses said, "O my Lord, please send anyone else whom you wish to send!" **4:14** Then the Lord became angry with Moses...
- Saul: (I Sam. 15:1-3)
 - 15:14** Samuel replied, "If that is the case, then what is this sound of sheep in my ears and the sound of cattle that I hear?"
 - 15:15** Saul said, "They were brought from the Amalekites; the army spared the best of the flocks and cattle to sacrifice to the Lord our God. But everything else we slaughtered."
- Excuses and excuse-makers are common today.

III. Common Excuses and How To Respond...

- "God just wouldn't expect that." (Ps. 10:13)
 - Abraham → Gen. 22:2; Heb. 11:8-12,19
 - "People will turn on me" (Matt. 10:35-37)
 - "God just loves me and wants me to be happy." (I Tim. 4:8; Jn. 14:15)
- "No one listens to me." (Ex. 4:1)
 - Noah → II Pet. 2:5; Lk. 8:15; Isa. 55:11; I Cor. 3:6; cf. Jn. 3,4
- I just wanted to be like everyone else."
 - S,M,A → Dan. 3:17-18; Jn. 12:42-43; Lk. 6:26
- "I just can't understand the Bible."
 - The Ethiopian → Acts 8:30-40
 - Eph. 3:3-5; 5:17; Jn. 7:17