

Excuses or Efforts?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade 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," (Luke 14:16-18).

The Lord spoke to the people that came to hear him, telling them of heaven and God's will. Although he came first to speak to the Jewish nation he told them of things that they didn't understand, or they held on to their own ideas. When one of the crowd said, "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God," Jesus told the story of the great supper.

In his story the man had invited people to a great supper that he was going to have. These folks that were invited were the Jews whom God had chosen. In the story the people didn't say that they couldn't come, or that they didn't want to come. When things were ready and it was time for the feast a servant was sent to call them. Then and only then did they decide that they didn't want to come. They began to make excuse with one consent which means that they were all in agreement. It was as if they said, "If you

won't go I won't go either."

To add insult to the matter they came up with silly excuses that were foolish. One claimed to have bought a piece of land and had to go and see it. The next had bought five yoke, ten, of oxen and had to go and try them out, or as he said to prove them. The last claimed to have gotten married and that was why he couldn't come to the supper. All of these were foolish and really insulting because no one would be so foolish as to believe that these were legitimate reasons.

The land was his, and the oxen belonged to the buyer, and the man who married would still be married whether they came to the feast or not. None of them had a good reason for not coming to the feast which they had caused the man to believe that they would come. None of them had reasons, all they had were excuses. While we may wonder and maybe laugh at them, we need to realize that they were not and are not the only ones to make excuses.

We have been invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. Jesus said, *"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely," Rev. 22:17.* If we look at many congregations today we see that few heed the invitation. Those who don't come would have a variety of so-called reasons for not coming. Many would say that they believe in God but would have some excuse as to

why they don't come to worship the Lord.

Some have told me that they don't have clothes good enough to wear to church. Those same people who have told me that, had clothes good enough to go where they wanted to go. I have heard of places where there seemed to be a dress code, but I don't know of any and if I did I would go somewhere where they worshiped according to God's Word and not by man's silly ideas.

People make excuses for a lot of things. Some claim to not read the scriptures because they don't understand it all. Well, I will say this, I don't understand it all either. Yet I read it all, from Genesis to Revelation at least once a year. No, I'm not trying to say that I'm special or bragging on myself, I'm saying that the more we read, study and pray the more we will understand. I would like to be able to remember more of what I read as well, but I remember what I can.

Ask people to come to church and you will get excuses for that too. Some don't have time, or so they say. They may be too busy to live, but I assure you, they will find time to die some day and will stand before the Lord. Some don't come to one service or another and they have "reasons" as to why they can't. I have even had a few who said that they would not and if they had to come to a particular service they would not come at all. If it is some place that we want to go to we will find a way to go, won't we?

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YOU, AND ALL YOUR HOUSE WILL SURELY DIE, IF YOU KEEP THIS WOMAN!

...THE TERRIFIED RULER LISTENS IN HORROR...

QUICKLY! SEND THE GUARDS AND BRING THIS MAN WHO HAS BETRAYED ME, IMMEDIATELY!

...AS THE LIGHT OF DAWN CREEPS OVER ABRAM'S TENTS....

...HE IS AROUSED BY ROUGH HANDS OUT OF HIS LONELY, RESTLESS SLEEP...

...AND NOW WITHOUT A WORD OF EXPLANATION, IS FORCED, ROUGHLY AND RUDELY, BY PHARAOH'S GUARDS TO GO WITH THEM - WHERE HE DOES NOT EVEN KNOW...

JOHN LEHTI

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