

## What's Your Excuse

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Luke 14:18-20.** "And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come."

One thing that most people do when faced with something that they don't wish to explain, or to face, is to make an excuse. Someone said that an excuse is what a person makes when they don't have a reason. Or a reason that they don't want to give. I'm afraid that all of us have given some excuse at some time in our lives. Maybe it was for something that we did, or an excuse for something that we were supposed to do, but didn't.

A person may give an excuse for not coming to Jesus. I have heard

a lot of them in my years as a minister. "There are hypocrites in the church," someone says or, "I don't have time to come to church." I have heard some say that they didn't have good clothes to wear to church. In reading the Bible I have never read where it said that you had to have a certain kind of clothes to wear to be saved. We are told to be modest in our apparel, but that is all. If a church has an atmosphere that makes someone feel out of place because they can't afford fancy clothes, they, the church, needs to change their focus.

If anyone stays away from the Lord and church, because they think that there are hypocrites then they need to consider themselves. The Lord will take care of the hypocrites in his own time and way. None of us are to judge anybody, judgment is the Lord's job, not anybody else can do it. The person that may be thought of as a hypocrite may have erred in a weak moment. That doesn't make him, or her, a hypocrite, it shows that they are human. A genuine hypocrite is someone who does wrong, not because of weakness, or by accident, but on purpose as a way of life. Try as hard as you can to live for the Lord, be as serious as you can, and you too will

err somewhere, at sometime in your life. That is when the serious Christian will go to the Lord in prayer and ask for forgiveness.

Time? That is a pretty weak excuse, don't you think? We don't have time to waste in not living for the Lord. Each day is precious and should not be wasted living for the world and the things of the flesh. Every one of us had a day that we were born and it is certain that there is coming a day that we will die. Except for those who will be living when the Lord returns. Would anyone be foolish enough to stand before God and say, "Lord, I didn't have time to serve you."

We can live for the Lord if we believe and love the Lord more than we love the things of this world.

Excuses are many and varied and are easy to make. While they sometimes work here in this life, they won't help when we face Jesus. He knows our hearts and what we believe and do. Let's be careful about using excuses and give more thought and effort to our relationship with the Lord. Whether it is by death, or the rapture, you will meet the Lord. Be ready for that day by trusting and obeying God's commands.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Exodus intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

...ACROSS THE PEACEFUL NILE VALLEY, THE BLACK MANTLE OF NIGHT BEGINS TO SPREAD OMINOUSLY...

**MOSES AND PLAGUES OF EGYPT**

IN SPITE OF MOSES' WARNING THAT ALL THE FIRST-BORN IN EGYPT WILL DIE IN THE NIGHT, UNLESS THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL ARE ALLOWED TO GO TO SERVE THE LORD, PHARAOH WILL NOT LET THEM GO, NOW...

...THE ISRAELITES, HAVING MADE ALL THE PREPARATIONS ORDERED BY MOSES, WAIT SILENTLY AND PRAYERFULLY IN THEIR HOUSES!

...WHILE PHARAOH'S ALERT GUARDS PEER ANXIOUSLY INTO THE GLOOM...

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