

# all made Excuses!



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Excuses are as old as time itself—they began in the Garden when God gave instructions, but Adam did not obey them. God asked Genesis 3:11 “Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?” Adam replied, Genesis 3:12 “The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.”

Eve said to God, Genesis 3:13 “The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.” They both made excuses, but excuses do not work. From that day to this, people have been making excuses whenever they are told to do something they do not want to do.

Jesus gave a parable—Luke 14:13 “When thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: 14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just. 15 And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.”

Jesus is teaching us that we are to help anyone who needs help and expect nothing in return—wanting no praise or any attention. If we have compassion and divine love in our heart, we will always help anyone who needs help—making no excuses—and especially helping those who are not able to return the favor or have the means to repay.

Luke 14:16 “A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: 17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. 18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse.”

The man prepares a sumptuous dinner and invites many to attend. When it came time, they all made excuses for not attending. We keep in mind that those invited were not asked to attend something that would be objectionable or unpleasant but were invited to a delicious and sumptuous meal—nevertheless, they *All Made Excuses!*

Luke 14:18 “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. 19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. 20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.”

The Gospel is likened in the Bible to a Feast—Revelation 19:9 “The marriage supper of the Lamb.” And God says, “Blessed are they which are called unto it.” Jesus added: “These are the true sayings of God.” At infinite cost, God has provided a Feast of eternal blessings for anyone who will repent, believe, and trust Him in faith for everything—Ephesians 1:7 “In whom [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.”

Responding correctly to the Gospel invitation through repentance; acceptance; and adherence to God’s will and Word, includes divine protection by angels—who Hebrews 1:14 “Are spirits sent from God to care for those who will receive salvation.” Also included in accepting the invitation to the Feast—is receiving Acts 2:38 “The gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Scripture does not explain exactly what the Marriage Supper will be like, but all true believers will be gathered from Luke 13:29 “The east, and from

the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.”

Jesus will be the Host so no one should miss it, and no one would miss it, except by their own refusal to accept the invitation—an invitation that includes following Bible instructions—Mark 11:25 “When you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

When we reject the words of our Savior, we are refusing to accept His instructions for godly living. When we ask to be excused from the Marriage Supper—we ask to be excused from eternal fellowship with all who have kept the faith and washed their robes in the Blood of the Lamb. We ask to be excused from being in the presence of God and His Son Jesus when we refuse to forgive someone or refuse to trust God in faith about something.

No doubt, we have all missed appointments at one time or another; and we have all turned down invitations to some event, but this is one appointment and one invitation no one should ever miss out on—attending the Marriage Feast in Heaven; seeing the King of kings; and living forever in His presence. No one would miss it unless they stubbornly refuse it!

Let us consider the three persons who Luke 14:18 “With one consent began to make excuse.” They did not actually have an excuse but simply made an 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.”

He could have looked over the land before buying it; the purchase would not be better by viewing it now—it was simply an excuse. Since he owned the land, he could easily see the ground at any time and whenever convenient.

The man did not want to accept the invitation; he did not want to attend the Feast—because something else was more important;

something *else* had first priority; his interest was elsewhere, so he manufactured an *excuse* to ease his conscience.

This pictures the majority of people in the world who have many possessions—and whose belongings have their *attention*; their *interest*, and their *affection*—in spite of the clear teaching 1 John 2:15 “*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*”

The second man who was invited to the sumptuous dinner made this excuse: Luke 14:19 “*I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.*”

The purchase would be a considerable amount of money, but again, now that the transaction took place, he could check them out at any other time.

Also, he was invited to an *evening* meal, so it is not a reasonable excuse—the man could not plow with the oxen after sunset.

This man represents all those who are so absorbed by their work or so interested in something else that they have no time for their *spiritual* interests. Most people in the world pass up opportunities that pertain to their eternal soul.

The third man’s excuse is the *least* reasonable of the three. Luke 14:20 “*Still another [the third] said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’*” It is obvious that he could have asked his wife to attend the Feast with him, but the fact is, he did *not want* to go and made an excuse.

Each of the three were *unwilling* to accept the invitation. They had no desire to accept because of being too involved with other things that were more important to them. They were not interested in things that pertain to the kingdom—maintaining a forgiving nature; keeping their love for God; or seeing fruits of the Spirit Galatians 5:22 “*Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.*”

Only the devil would cause someone to desire things on this earth *more* than desiring eternal life in Heaven. Even though God is clearly saying 1 John 2:15 “*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world,*” all too many *do* love the world and therefore forfeit their salvation if no repentance is forthcoming. Galatians 5:24 “*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.*”

Two-thousand years have passed since the parable of the Feast Luke 14, and not much has changed—people still make excuses of every kind rather than accept the blessed invitation of the living God of the universe.

Jesus clearly taught us to Matthew 6:20 “*Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,*” by giving your excess money to the poor on earth; but not many are doing that, and not many are accepting the invitation to put their wealth in Heaven—where their heart should be also.

All too many people have had all too many opportunities to accept the invitation to forgive from the heart, but they have made excuses why they were not willing to do that. Satan has them think—*They have treated me this way for years; they never said they were sorry; they put me down and ridicule me any time I am near them; I hate being around them; if anyone mentions them to me, I’ll tell them to stay away from that person; they will treat you the same way*—such *subtle revenge* is one of Satan’s *subtle snares*.

We are all invited to a great Feast that includes Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; along with many others, because they *accepted* the invitation and *followed* the instructions in the Word; they *recalled* and *responded*—they got Ephesians 4:31 “*Rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. 32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*”

If we make excuses, and we refuse the invitation by refusing to *forgive* from the heart, the result is horrible beyond description—Matthew 18:35 “*In the same way my Heavenly Father will deal with you, if you do not all of you forgive one another from your hearts.*” The apostle adds Colossians 3: 13 “*Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.*”

After three men make three excuses why they won’t attend the Feast—Luke 14:21 “*That servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ 22 And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’*”

There is always room, but a choice to repent will have to be made—a choice to *accept*; not an excuse to *refuse!* Matthew 7:14 “*Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*” One of life’s greatest opportunities is the invitation to Paradise!

Since so many *people* make so many *excuses*, Luke 14:23 “*The master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 ‘For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’*”

The opportunity is presented: Make the *choice* to *accept* the invitation, obey the Word and live with Jesus forever; or make an *excuse* to *ignore* the instructions, disobey the Word—and *regret* it forever!



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