

The Correspondent



SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM & 2:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM
Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM
www.collinsville-troycoc.org
(618) 667-6708

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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Excuses, Excuses -Renn Ferguson

My dog ate my homework” is probably the most infamous excuse of all time. The truth is that all of us have made excuses from time to time. Did you know that Christ actually speaks about this topic in Luke 14:15-24? In this passage Christ is comparing a great supper to the Kingdom of God. He shows very clearly that He sent out many invitations but the first group to which He sent made excuses as to why they could not come.

The first excuse is found in verses 18 and 19, “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’” Both of these people said they were too busy to come to the banquet. How often do we do this with God? We will often use our jobs as an excuse as to why we cannot attend worship or Bible classes. People use their plans as excuses as to why they cannot obey the truth. This is exactly what these two people Christ is describing did. Another well-known example of this is the rich young ruler in Matthew 19. Though he may not have verbally made an excuse he did by his actions. The young man excused himself from following Jesus because he had many possessions. Those that make excuses because of their work, plans, or affiliations will not be able to enter into the Kingdom of God.

The second excuse is found in verse 20, “And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’” This is another excuse that so many use. I have heard of and met many people that study the Bible, believe it and want to obey it but they will not because of their family. I am sure that many of you have heard others who learn the truth say, “well if my daddy is in hell then I guess I’m going too.” Family ties are extremely strong and many people find themselves using their family as an excuse. Christ actually discusses this a couple of verses after our main passage in v. 26. We may love and care about our families but nothing can come before Christ. It does not matter what our relation to them is or how special they may be to us we cannot put them before the Lord. Christ, however, does understand how difficult giving up family is and He said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.” (Mark 10:29-30). He comforts us by telling us no matter what we have to give up we will receive much more. Still, many people use their family as an excuse.

Excuses can seem harmless and sometimes be entertaining but, when it comes to God no excuse is harmless or entertaining. Many people will make excuses as to why they cannot obey the Gospel or serve God. Are you making any excuses?