

## Excuses

By Pastor Kelly Sensenig

Luke 14:18-19 says:

“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.”

Many times we will make up excuses for not serving the Lord, doing His will, or living in the manner that Christ wants us to live. Jesus spoke about those who make excuses in these verses. The first excuse was a *material excuse*. The individual had purchased a piece of ground and wanted to go see it. Materialism kept him from doing the Master's will. Materialism is something that can steal our time and devotion away from the Lord. Love for the material things of this world (1 Tim. 6:10) can steal away our time. As a result, a love for material wealth can keep us from doing what is right and can actually detour our lives from doing God's will. Second, there was a *business excuse*. A certain individual purchased five yoke of oxen and needed to go and examine them. This is the person who puts

jobs, occupations, or business ahead of the will of God. This is a common sin among God's people today. They would rather work around God's will than do God's will. Third, there was a *marital excuse* given for not doing God's will. Family ties and marital relationships can often hinder us from doing God's will. Many times there are family ties that get in the way and keep us from doing what God wants us to do.

Now think about all of these excuses. Will any of them hold up when believers stand before the Lord? 2 Corinthians 5:10 says that "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ" as Christians and be held accountable for the way that we have lived. The Lord is not going to have sympathy on us for allowing materialism, employment or marriage and family to stand in the way of doing His will. Do you think the Lord is going to accept your feeble excuse of having to work all the time instead of attending church and serving the Lord? Do you honestly think that the Lord is going to say, "Mr. So-and-so, I know you were a busy man. I can understand your predicament. You have good reason for not serving Me." Do you think the Lord is going to say, "I understand that you had to mow the yard and balance your books on Sunday and that you were too busy to

attend church, hand out Gospel tracts, and be involved in My work.” Do you really believe that the Lord is going to say, “I understand that you had a wife or husband that was not concerned about doing God’s will so that let’s you off the hook. Don’t worry about it.” *We may give excuses for not doing God’s will but the Lord will not excuse us for not doing it!* This is because if we truly want to do God’s will we can do it and will find a way to do it.

Many times we reason to God that we simply ran out of time to serve Him. However, this is not the case. ***We must remember that there is always time to do God’s will!*** The Lord graciously gives to each one of us the same amount of time. It is what we do with our time that counts. Did it ever occur to you that not everything in your date book is in the will of God? Therefore, we must *make time and take the time* to do God’s will, what we know is right, and then we will find true satisfaction and blessing in life. This means we are to take time for devotions and worship (Psalm 119:47; Mark 1:35) and plan within our days to serve the Lord (Col. 3:24) and be obedient to what we know He wants us to do such as attending church faithfully (Heb. 10:24-25). We must learn the secret of establishing right priorities in relationship to our time and not allow the secular things of life to

crowd out the spiritual things of life. Jesus said that we cannot serve two masters at the same time (Matt. 6:24). Remember this. You only do what you want to do! So stop making excuses. Vance Havner called an excuse “the skin of a reason, stuffed with a lie.”