



WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

People through the centuries have had excuses (good or bad) for not serving the Lord. Today

I'll give you a list of excuses.

MOSES

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" . . . Then Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." Exodus 3:11, 4:10

Now there's a "good" excuse. It is one we can all use (at least, most of us). Unfortunately, it won't work! *But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak;* Matthew 10:19 If we trust the Lord, the Holy Spirit will guide our lips and give us the words to speak.

ISAIAH

"Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts." Isaiah 6:5

The excuse here is basically, "I am not good enough to do that," "I am too much of a sinner to be used." Too bad! That won't work either! *And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged."* Isaiah 6:7

We are not sinners (if we are Christians). The blood of Christ has taken care of that. We are a holy people whom God can use.

JONAH

The sickest excuse in all of the Bible comes from the lips of Jonah.

"Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God,

slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. Jonah 4:2

Jonah fled from God's "marching orders" and went in the opposite direction. Why? He tells us in the passage above. He was afraid that God would be so compassionate that He would spare the Ninevites, Israel's enemies. Do you have people who you dislike that you would not want to be saved? I really do not think this is the case. By the way, Jonah's fears were not unfounded!

Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it. Jonah 3:10

THE FAMILY MEN

Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." Luke 9:59

That may seem like a good excuse. Isn't a person supposed to take care of his family? Well, that doesn't work either!

Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:60

There is really more to this than meets the eye. It seems to me that it is somehow wrong to spend undue time preaching to someone with a hardened ("dead") heart when so many are seeking the Gospel.

And another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home."

Luke 9:61

Another poor excuse. *But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

Luke 9:62

Well, I guess I failed to do what I set out to do. I was going to give you some good excuses for not serving the Lord - none of them seemed to pan out! There are no excuses! So, excuse me for this mistake!

Wayne

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