Excuses

Luke 14:16-24

INTRODUCTION:

A. Lesson Text: Luke 14:16-24

B. It is astonishing what excuses people make for not coming to Christ.
   1. Some people are too busy to bother.
   2. Some people are too procrastinating to consider it now.
   3. Some are too clever to want to come.
   4. Some are too proud to come.
   5. Some are too prejudice to come.
   6. Some are not informed enough to come.
   7. Some are too worldly to come.
   8. Some are too self-satisfied to come.

C. Knowing what was in man, Jesus told the story in which three kinds of men emerged together with their empty "reasons" (a-k-a, excuses) for not responding to the invitation extended to them
   1. With a sure and firm hand, Jesus drew the picture of the consequences for not responding to Him.
   2. The bottom line . . . Very well, they too would be rejected.
   3. For each of these three, the timing was inconvenient. May we stand reminded that coming to Christ is not a matter of **CONVENIENCE** . . . But **CONVICTION**.
   3. Now it's our turn to decide. To help us see the need for making the right decision, let us examine their three excuses.

THE BUSINESS MAN'S EXCUSE . . . "MY WEALTH!". (14:18)

A. **LUKE 14:18** – "But they all began making excuses. One said he had just bought a field and wanted to inspect it, so he asked to be excused."
   1. Was it bought as an investment? Investing in real estate is still a good investment.
   2. Was it bought in order to expand his farming operation? Expanding one's business can be beneficial to many people.
   3. Whatever the reason he purchased it, he used it as an excuse for not accepting the all-important invitation extended to him.

THE WORKING MAN'S EXCUSE . . . "MY WORK!" (14:19)

A. **LUKE 14:19** – "Another said he had just bought five pair of oxen and wanted to try them out."

B. God blesses people with jobs then you turn around and use that job to keep

C. Work is important . . . The Bible teaches us that . . . But it should never replace faithful obedience to God.

THE FAMILY MAN'S EXCUSE . . . "MY WIFE!" (14:20)

A. **LUKE 14:20** – "Another had just been married, so he said he couldn't come."
   1. Hen-pecked already.
   2. **MATTHEW 19:29** – "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life."

B. Don't ever let family cause you to disappoint God.

C. What God has given you as blessings, do not turn them into curses.

CONCLUSION:

A. Rarely would a person buy a field without already having seen it, or five yoke of oxen without already having tried them out. These answers were the result of preoccupations with material possessions.

B. In Jesus' story, many people turned down the invitation to the banquet because the timing was inconvenient.
   1. People today can also resist or delay responding to God's invitation, and their excuses may sound reasonable . . . work duties, family responsibilities . . . financial needs . . . and so forth.
   2. Nevertheless, God's invitation is the most important event in life, no matter how inconveniently it may be timed.
   3. Are you making excuses to avoid God's kind and generous invitation? Jesus said that the time will come when God will withdraw his invitation and offer it to others – then it will be too late to get into the banquet.

C. **Illustration**: When Queen Elizabeth II was to be crowned, she sent an invitation to those of her subjects chosen to be present for that occasion. The invitation was sent to peers of the realm . . . To members of her government . . . And to representatives of the common people. But every invitation bore the same closing statement: "**All excuses ceasing**."

D. The invitation from Christ to obey His gospel and be saved is being offered right here . . . Right now on His behalf . . . "**All excuses ceasing**."

E. Listening Friend . . .
   1. Excuses usually satisfy only those who use them.
   2. Never give an excuse that you would not be willing to accept.
   3. Excuses get in the way of becoming a Christian . . . And excuses get in the way of being a faithful Christian. Someone has written: "Lame excuses come from lame Christians." That's something to think about.
   4. Love will find a way . . . Indifference will find an excuse.

F. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**