

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Luke 14:15-20](#).
- B. In our scripture reading when a great banquet was prepared, excuses were given by those invited and they did not come.
- C. Today, people still make excuses for not following after Jesus and not being active in the church as they should.
- D. This lesson is given in two parts; the first, this morning, and the other tonight. The excuses to be looked at are:
 - 1. This morning:
 - a. "Not today."
 - b. "It's too late for me."
 - c. "I tried that once and failed."
 - d. "Too many mysteries."
 - e. "I don't need a Savior."
 - 2. Tonight:
 - a. "God is love, there is no danger."
 - b. "Too many hypocrites in the church."
 - c. "It will cost me too much."
 - d. "I cannot leave my old companions."
 - e. "I shall be persecuted."

I. ONE, "NOT TODAY."

- A. This excuse says, "I will not obey X today, but maybe some other day."
- B. But today is all one has. You cannot go back to yesterday and tomorrow never comes.
- C. Joshua said "choose you this day" in Joshua 24:15.
- D. Proverbs 27:1 says ["Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth."](#)
- E. Isaiah 55:6 gives a sober warning, ["Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near."](#)
- F. Saul was told ["Why tarriest thou?"](#) (Ac. 22:16).

II. TWO, "IT IS TOO LATE FOR ME."

- A. This excuse deals with the attitude that one is beyond hope. Only God judges this.
- B. A great OT verse, whose principle is still true for us in 2Chr. 7:14.
- C. Romans 10:13 says ["Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord..."](#)
- D. Matthew 11:28 begins that great invitation and it is not limited.
["Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."](#)
- E. The only time it will be too late for one to change is after death.

III. THIRD, "I TRIED THAT ONCE AND FAILED."

- A. God does expect perfection, just faithfulness (working up to one's abilities).
- B. God is able to deliver (2Tim. 1:12).
[For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.](#)
- C. God can save to the utmost (Heb. 7:25).
[Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.](#)
- D. God can keep you from falling (1Cor. 10:13; Jude v24).
[\(1Cor 10:13\) No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.](#)
[\(Jude v24\) Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,](#)
- E. Our weakness are not our downfall, but can help us realize the grace of God (2Cor. 12:9).
[And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.](#)

IV. **FOUR, “TOO MANY MYSTERIES.”**

- A. Just because we don't understand everything does mean we don't use it. (Example: car, computer, electricity, nuclear energy, the earth).
- B. Neither do understand how a brown cow, eats green grass, which gives white milk, yellow butter and red meat! But I sure like the milk and the meat!
- C. Deut. 29:29 says, “[The secret things belong to God.](#)”
- D. Acts 1:7 says for the apostles, “[It is not for you to know.](#)” (Example: Jesus second coming.)
- E. First Corinthians 13:12 says, “[Now we see darkly...](#)”

V. **FIVE, “I DON'T NEED A SAVIOR.”**

- A. We cannot have a righteousness built on ourselves. Our righteousness comes from God, through Jesus Christ.
- B. Romans 3:23 says, “[All have sinned...](#)” See also Rom. 6:23, “[The wages of sin is death.](#)”
- C. Romans 7:22-24 shows how one who tries to establish their own righteousness becomes a wretched person in God's sight.
[For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?](#)
- D. We cannot ignore or escape the wrath of God if we don't accept JC (Mk. 16:16b; Jn. 3:36; Heb. 2:3).
[\(Mk 16:16b\) “...but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”](#)
[\(Jn 3:36\) “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”](#)
[\(Heb 2:3\) ...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,...](#)

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Excuses get us no-where with God. There is no argument that can be given to tell God the Father that we do not need the Savior.
- B. Tonight we continue to look at five more vain statements.
- C. In Lk. 14:18 the Bible says, “[they began to make excuses.](#)” Let's stop doing that today.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.