

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Luke 14:15-20.**
- B. Tonight's lesson is a continuance of the one this morning on excuses.
- C. We have looked at the following excuses men give for not being Xians and active in the church:
 - 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. SIX, "GOD IS LOVE THERE IS NO DANGER."

- A. God is as perfect in justice, condemnation, and judgment as He is in mercy, love, and forgiveness.
- B. Matthew 22:13 speaks of God casting men into outer darkness.
"Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "
- C. Jesus tells sinners (great and small) to repent or perish (Lk. 13:3).
"I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."
- D. Peter's logic is powerful in showing that God punishes wrong-doers (2Pet. 2:4).
For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;
- E. We are to "fear God" as well as know of His love.

II. SEVEN, "TOO MANY HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH."

- A. Hypocrites are a problem. But realize, as Xians we don't follow the hypocrites we follow X.
- B. Job 8:13 says, "The hypocrite's hope shall perish."
- C. And we must not be quick to label people (Mt. 7:1-5).
"Do not judge lest you be judged. 2 "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. 3 "And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? 5 "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."
- D. Remember that hypocrites must answer to God (Rom. 14:12).
So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.
- E. May we have fervent love among brethren (1Pet. 4:8).
Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

III. EIGHT, "IT WILL COST ME TOO MUCH."

- A. True discipleship costs. We must be willing to pay the price. But what we give up is worthless as compared to knowing X.
- B. Psalm 116:12 says, "What shall I render to the Lord."
- C. Mark 8:36 says "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world."
- D. But remember the great receiving of blessings to those who "pay the price" (Mk. 10:29-30).
Jesus 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 farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, 30 but that he shall receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.
- E. The cost is nothing as compared to the reward. The world is rubbish (Phil. 3:8).
More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ,...

IV. NINE, "I CANNOT LEAVE MY OLD COMPANIONS."

- A. Most people who believe or think this would rarely if ever say it.
- B. It makes no sense at all to stay with those who would do evil and cause others to do evil.
- C. Exodus 23:2 says, "Those shall not follow a multitude to do evil."
- D. Second Corinthians 6:14 says, "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers."
- E. First Corinthians 15:33 says, "Do not be deceived evil companions corrupt good morals." Proverbs 13:20 says, "He that walks with wise men, shall be wise."
- F. We must leave bad relationships for good ones.

V. TEN, "I SHALL BE PERSECUTED."

- A. Persecutions make Xians stronger, not weaker. We must learn to look at persecution correctly.
- B. Matthew 5:11 and the words of Jesus says there is a blessing in persecution, but we should never go looking for it.
"Blessed are you when *men* cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me."
- C. Second Timothy 3:12 says, "All godly people will be persecuted."
- D. Revelation 2:10 says, "Be faithful unto death..."
- E. We can consider our persecution to be joy according to Jas. 1:2-4.
Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. **4** And let endurance have *its* perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. All excuses have no foundation in truth. There is no excuse or reason under heaven to not follow God, X and the HS in the church.
- B. The five excuses looked at tonight are:
 - 1. "God is love, there is no danger."
 - 2. "Too many hypocrites in the church."
 - 3. "It will cost me too much."
 - 4. "I cannot leave my old companions."
 - 5. "I shall be persecuted."
- C. Instead of excuses, resolve to follow X, and be faithful in His church.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.