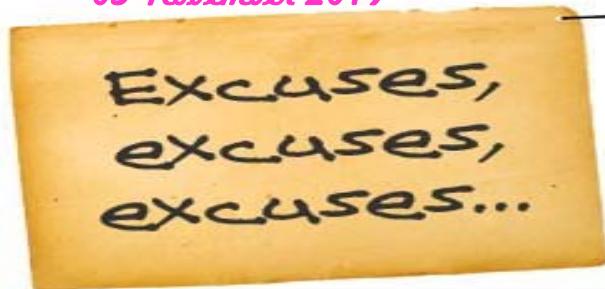


George Church of Christ

03 November 2019



Excuses, Everybody Has One



"He who excuses himself accuses himself." Excuses are like noses: everybody has one. However, there may be something about excuses we have not thought much about. As Israel of old had their scapegoat on whom the sins of the people were placed ([Lev. 16:5-10](#)), so we have our excuses. We use them as our scapegoats. They are easy and readily available. So, if we want to excuse ourselves from any course of action or fault, we just come up with a good excuse.

The first thing we need to remember about excuses is that they **anger the Lord**. Remember when God called Moses to deliver the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage? Moses made several excuses. He said, "I'm not equal to the task" ([Ex. 3:10-12](#)). Further, Moses said, "They will ask who sent me" ([Ex. 3:13-14](#)). Also, "They will not believe me" ([Ex. 4:1](#)). Then he said, "I can't talk well" ([Ex. 4:10-11](#)). Usually we read this account and say there is not much merit to Moses' excuses, while our own excuses always sound good to us. We think when we make our excuses God will excuse us. No, excuses don't alleviate the anger of the

Lord. The point is not how good or poor the excuses are – but the Lord's reaction. God was angry with Moses because he was not going to do what God told him to do.

Second, excuses don't change the consequences. In the parable of [Luke 14:15-24](#), our Lord told us of three excuses. We might have thought they were good reasons, but the Lord said they were excuses. One man had bought a piece of ground, another a yoke of oxen, and another married a wife. We are amused at the shallowness of the excuses, yet the same principle is stated. The excuses did not appease the master ([Lk. 14:21](#)). The Lord's point is that because of the excuse making those who made excuses missed something. No matter how good the excuse, when it is given, it prevents us from partaking of the blessings of the feast. Therefore, the master sent his servants out into the highway and hedges to invite the outcast of society to the feast so that the house was filled.

Third, excuses don't eliminate the responsibility even though we like to think they do. Generally, excuses are an attempt to do away with responsibility. "I never was responsible." Adam and Eve used this. Adam was called by God, "What have you done? Have you eaten the fruit I told you not to eat?" Before Adam admits that he ate the fruit of the forbidden tree, he tries to explain why he was not responsible. "The woman gave it to me. It is her fault. You gave me the woman, the fault lies somewhere between You and Eve, but not me" ([Genesis 3:9-11](#)). Eventually, Adam had to admit he had eaten. Eve had to bear her share of the burden for encouraging Adam. But, Adam was still guilty. In the final analysis the responsibility is mine. Crying about it won't change a thing.

Consider, what is the true nature of excuses? Most of the time excuses are not the truth. Excuses have been defined as "the skin of a reason stuffed with a lie." Excuses do not really tell why we do or don't do a thing. So we manufacture an excuse; take something that is part of the truth and blow it up to make another thing more important. Most of the time we make excuses because we do not want to do or say something. We don't say, "I didn't want..." so we make excuses.

Finally, since most people easily see through our flimsy layer of excuses, how much more does our Father see right through them to our heart? Our great danger is in deceiving ourselves. We lie to ourselves and cut ourselves off from ever solving the problem from which we are excusing ourselves. The remedy is to get our "want to" right. Face the truth about our excuses and rid ourselves of them. *-Rickie Jenkins*



Please read this. Very enlightening.

I have always thought that Noah was safe inside the Ark because he built it according to God's specifications. I thought that perhaps it was the strength of the gopher wood and the soundness of the architecture that ensured that the waters of the flood would not come into the Ark.

But today I encountered a verse that shifted this whole paradigm. Let's read what Gen 7:16 says .." The animals going in were male and female of every living thing as God had commanded Noah.. THEN GOD SHUT HIM IN....

Don't miss this.... even after Noah had built the Ark, it was God Himself who shut him in, in order to shut out the waters of the flood... In other translations this verse says "The Lord sealed them inside."

May the Almighty God seal us inside His Ark of protection through this last quarter of 2019.

It is not the fact that you have locked your house that keeps you safe at night, it is not your good driving skills that keeps you safe on the road, neither it's your healthy eating habits that keeps you healthy - only God can shut you in and shut out the devil that is seeking to devour you.

Father we pray that in this last quarter of the year, as we walk into the streets and as we drive on the roads, shut us in. Father we pray for our children that in the midst of dangers and molesters... You will shut them in, keep out the flood waters of abuse, rape, murder, accidents, diseases and untimely death... shut us in, shut us in your Ark of protection, into your Ark of compassion..

May GOD SHUT US IN AS WE OBEY HIM AND TRUST IN HIS WORD

03 November	DUTY ROSTER	10 November
AM		AM
Leroy	SONG LEADER	Leroy
Reinhold	ANNOUNCEMENTS	Leroy
Reinhold	SCRIPTURE & PRAYER	Leroy
Reinhold & Robin	AM SERVERS	Robert & Reinhold
Robert	LORD'S SUPPER	Leroy
Danny	PREACHING	Danny
Robin	CLOSING PRAYER	Robert

Today's Order of Worship

Song 1 (488)	Standing On The Promises
Song 2 (386)	O Happy Day
Song 3 (545)	This World Is Not My Home
Song 4 (257)	I Need Thee Every Hour - one verse only
Song 5 ()	

Benevolence

Toiletries
Cereals



Estelle
Rain
Levson (Work)
Lynn vd Walt
Marclen & Family
SA Bible College
George Congregation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Estelle has been discharged from Spescare and is recuperating at home

Title & Opening Scripture

"DON'T FEED THE LION" 1 Peter 5:6-8

Other Scriptures

•2 Corinthians 11:13-14•Ephesians 6:10•John 15:5•Ephesians 6:11•1 Thessalonians 2:18•2 Corinthians 11:3•Ephesians 6:12 - 13 - 14 - 15 - 16 - 17•Psalm 86:11•Colossians 3:1-2•Matthew 16:23•1 Peter 5:8•Romans 7:15 & 17•Philippians 4:8

Attendance Figures

22 Sep	44
29 Sep	47
06 Oct	51
13 Oct	39
20 Oct	39
27 Oct	39

Sunday School Teachers

03 rd Nov	Reinhold
10 th Nov	Antoinette
17 th Nov	Jacqui
24 th Nov	Combined

BABYSITTERS

03 rd Nov	Antoinette
10 th Nov	Derece
17 th Nov	Esmari
24 th Nov	Kristy



Walter & Lindie 23 Nov

Esmari	01 Nov
Rulan	05 Nov
Beaanice	09 Nov
John	16 Nov
Lynn Viljoen	18 Nov
Robin	20 Nov

Please send any relevant information for this Bulletin to reinhold.jahnke@gmail.com