

# *What's Your Excuse?*

*Ex 3:10-11*

**1**

**10** Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." **11** But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?"

*Ex 3:13*

**2**

**13** Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?"

*Ex 4:1*

**3**

**1** Then Moses answered and said, "What if they will not believe me, or listen to what I say? For they may say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'"

*Ex 4:10*

**4**

**10** Then Moses said to the LORD, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since Thou hast spoken to Thy servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

*Matt 25:24-25*

**5**

**24** "And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed. **25** And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground; see, you have what is yours.'

*Matt 22:1-6*

**6**

**1** And Jesus answered and spoke to them again in parables, saying, **2** "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king, who gave a wedding feast for his son. **3** "And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come. **4** "Again he sent out other slaves saying, 'Tell those who have been invited,' Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast. "' **5** "But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, **6** and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them.

Do you see the common thread that runs through these passages? **7** Excuses are as varied as are the people that are making them. Eve blamed the Serpent, Adam blamed Eve, the young rich man, while not voicing it out loud, used his riches as his excuse. They manifest themselves in our lives in a vast variety of shapes and sizes. Note what Martha says to the Lord in

*Luke 10:40-42*

**8**

**40** But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." **41** But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; **42** but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her. "

**9** What was Martha's excuse? She seemed to think that she was doing the right thing, yet the Lord tells her that she is concentrating on the wrong things in her life. Is the Lord telling her that the cares and concerns of this world are to be forgotten or ignored? NO! He is comparing the concern for the things of this world with the concern for spiritual things. We have many responsibilities in this world that God has commanded us to pay attention to. In

**2 Thess 3:10**

**10**

**10** For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat.

**1 Tim 5:16**

**11**

**16** If any woman who is a believer has dependent widows, let her assist them, and let not the church be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

Combine that passage with

**1 Tim 5:3-4**

**12**

**3** Honor widows who are widows indeed; **4** but if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family, and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God.

It's pretty easy to see that God wants His children to take the responsibility for taking care of their own as well as themselves, to accept the burden of supplying the needs of those who are in need.

Jesus did not mean for Martha to understand that she was not to care for the things of this world, but rather to let her know that she needed to understand all her responsibilities, not only in this world but most especially in the spiritual world. Jesus chastised Martha for doing what she thought was the right thing to do, waiting on and serving the Lord. But note that the chastisement was not for seeing to the physical needs of the Lord, but rather for putting the things of this world above God and Christ when she could have been in His presence. SO..... **13**

**14**

## ***WHATS YOUR EXCUSE ?***

What's my excuse? What's anyone's excuse to not do God's will? In this lesson we are going to look at some of the passages we have already read and try to make some application to ourselves today.

**Ex 3:10-11**

**15**

**10** Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." **11** But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?"

What an honor, to be asked by God to do a very special work. Yet we see Moses coming up with an excuse, "Who am I?". How often do we downplay who and what we are as an excuse to not do what God asks. Brethren, see what John wrote in Revelation 1...

**John 1:12**

**16**

**12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

**Rom 8:16-17**

**17**

**16** The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God , **17** and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

**Rev 1:4-6**

**18**

**4** John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne; **5** and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood, **6** and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

We are God's children, we are His priests, the priests of God, sent to the world to deliver His message of Salvation to those that are lost. Who am I ??? Who are YOU ??? We are God's chosen messengers to the World, What's our Excuse? **19**

**Ex 3:13**

**20**

**13** Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?"

How about this one, not Who am I, but Who are You, oh God? What if they say to me, who sent me? What do I say? God's response to this....

**Ex 3:14**

**21**

**14** And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

God has no need to explain Himself to man. No need to prove who or what He is. He simply IS. It is up to each of us to decide whether or not God IS, in our lives. Each man decides what his response will be to the seed of God's word. In the end God will be made known and every knee will bow. Do we back away from someone and from our own faith in the face of the one who questions who God is or where He came from? Why? Is it our lack of faith, or understanding, or knowledge that prevents us from giving an answer to any who ask a reason for our faith? Christ in His discussion with His disciples said...

**Matt 10:19-20**

**22**

**19** "But when they deliver you up, do not become anxious about how or what you will speak; for it shall be given you in that hour what you are to speak. **20** "For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

Now, we understand the context here is that the disciples would be miraculously given what to say. We are not saying that we will have that same gift, but in principle we have everything that they were given right here in the scriptures, inspired by God for our benefit to equip us to all good works. The real question is do we trust in God?

As we look again at what Moses said in...

**Ex 4:1**

**23**

*1* Then Moses answered and said, "What if they will not believe me, or listen to what I say? For they may say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'"

**Ex 4:10**

*10* Then Moses said to the LORD, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since Thou hast spoken to Thy servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

I see these excuses as being very closely aligned with an inaccurate way of thinking. Moses seems to think that the people would not listen to him because of his ineloquence, that they would refuse the message because of his inadequacies. That they would deny the message is from God. Sound familiar? Is this a reaction we have? A reason we don't try to teach, because we are convinced that no one will believe that the message is from God because we don't speak eloquently or we aren't able to be persuasive with our speech, remember that God is the one who grants the increase, our job is to spread the seed. We need to ask ourselves whether we have the courage to do what God asks of us...or are we afraid. In Matt 25 we see....

**Matt 25:23-26**

**24**

*24* "And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed. *25* And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground; see, you have what is yours.'

My curiosity about this servant is what he was afraid of. Was it really the master, or was it the idea that he might actually have to do something? I would ask if you thought he was lazy, but that seems obvious. Isn't it funny though that no one ever uses the fact that they are lazy as an excuse, but more often than not that's precisely the reason they don't get involved. What are we really afraid of? Being rejected? Being ridiculed? Failing? Or maybe we just don't care, like those in Matt 22...

**Matt 22:1-6**

**25**

*1* And Jesus answered and spoke to them again in parables, saying, *2* "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king, who gave a wedding feast for his son. *3* "And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come. *4* "Again he sent out other slaves saying, 'Tell those who have been invited,' Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast. "' *5* "But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, *6* and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them.

These people didn't care that the king was inviting them as his guest. They placed no value on the king's invitation. The excuses they came up with were nothing more than weak justifications to avoid responding. They just didn't care. SO...

**26**

## ***WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE ?***

What prevents us from doing what God asks? Do we not understand the power of the word...

**Rom 1:16-17**

**27**

**16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **17** For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

**28** Do we not have faith in the authority that God has given us as His priest?

**29** Do we have faith in the inheritance that God has promised to us as His Children?

**30** Or Maybe we Don't trust that God IS. Do we really and truly BELIEVE that God is the great I AM.

Do we waver in taking opportunity to try and teach because we don't have confidence in our ability to speak or be persuasive? I think that needs to be rethought. If someone responds to God because I have somehow persuaded him, he is responding to for the wrong reason. It is the word of God that has the power to save, not me or any eloquence that I might have. We need to understand that point. It is God's word and the grace that sent His Son to save mankind from it's sin that has the power, not us.

I understand being afraid. Having been an outside sales person on the road for 25 years, I often walked into accounts that I knew nothing about, knowing that I was the last person they wanted to see. I had customers summarily throw me out. One of the most difficult things to do is to put yourself out there knowing that the chance of being received is about the same as being rejected. This is why so many quit trying after being rejected. It's not about us. It's about God.

Or do we just not care. How many people have you talked to that just didn't care? Agrippa told Paul...

*Acts 26:28*

**31**

**28** And Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian."

What can be said or shown to people that will cause faith to grow in them? How can we soften the heart of the one who is bitter and full of hate, maybe even a brother or sister in Christ? How do we find the energy to keep trying even after our efforts have been rejected time after time?

It all starts with knowing that God IS, that He has given us all that we need to be His Priest and spokes people here on Earth. That He is the one that will cause the growth if growth is to be. SO....

**32**

## *What's our Excuse ??*

*Matt 11:27-30*

**33**

**28** "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. **29** "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. **30** "For My yoke is easy, and My load is light."