

THEY BEGAN TO MAKE EXCUSE

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INTRODUCTION

- A. TEXT: *“And they all with one consent began to make excuse.”* v. 18.
- B. **THE SETTING:** v. 1.
1. At the house of a Pharisee and *“they were watching Him.”*
 2. Would He do or say something wrong.
 3. When they failed to find reason to accuse him...
 4. They came face to face with the invitation to come to the great feast....
 5. *And they began to make excuse.....*
- C. EXCUSE , by definition.
1. A pretense or pretext.
 2. “To speak oneself off; hence to plead for oneself.
 3. To defend.
 4. Acting in imagined self-interest.
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ABOUT EXCUSES

- A. AN EXCUSE SOUNDS GOOD TO THE GIVER.
1. To him it would make sense.
 2. How ever weak the excuse - the giver thinks it strong.
 3. To him it is justification.
- B. WE EVEN GIVE EXCUSES FOR GIVING EXCUSES.
1. It keeps us out of trouble.
 2. It is better for all involved.
 3. This (the excuse) is better for everyone than the true action would have been!
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WHY GIVE EXCUSES

- A. FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ONE TO WHOM IT IS GIVEN.
1. To make them feel better.
 2. To keep from hurting their feelings.
 3. But the bottom line is, it is always to deceive them.
- B. FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GIVER!!
1. It is to justify to himself his actions.
 2. Always one of two reasons.
 - a. For having failed to do what should have been done.
 - b. Or for having done what should NOT have been done.

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C. WHEN YOU FACE A CHALLENGE YOU DO NOT WISH TO MEET!

1. To do what you do not want to do.
2. To go where you do not want to go.
3. An excuse is an effort to justify oneself in an action or inaction.

BIBLE EXAMPLES

B. EXCUSES ARE AS OLD AS MAN. (I give you the excuse – you give me the maker.)

1. *“And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.”* (Gen. 3:12) ADAM!
2. *“The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.”* (Gen. 3:13). EVE!
3. *“....am I my brother’s keeper?”* (Gen. 4:9). CAIN!

C. SOME EXCUSES ARE REMEMBERED AS CLASSICS.

D. MOSES: Exodus 4:1-4.

1. *“Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?”*
2. *“and they shall say to me What is his name?”*
3. *“And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice; for they will say, Jehovah hath not appeared unto thee.”*
4. *“Oh, Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant; for I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.”*

D. AARON: Exodus 32:22-24.

1. *“And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on evil. For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we know not what is become of him. And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off: so they gave it me; and I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.”*
2. Before we scoff....it really doesn't sound any Better/Worse than the ones you hear today.
3. Listen to the excuses that people give today;
 - a. Why don't you go to church?
 - b. Why don't you become a Christian?
 - c. Why don't you live as you should?

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- d. May I borrow your mule today? No, I may go fishing. What has that got to do with me borrowing your mule? Nothing....but when you don't want to do something....One excuse is as good as another!.

TODAY

A. MAN'S EXCUSES TODAY.

1. I would obey if I could just understand your Word.
2. I don't/can't study, because it (The Word) is too confusing...

B. Deut. 30:11-14. *"For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not too hard for thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, and make us to hear it, that we may do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, and make us to hear it, that we may do it? But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it."*

1. Yes, but that is the Old Testament...
2. Let's turn to the New...

C. Romans 1:18-ff. *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness; because that which is known of God is manifest in them; for God manifested it unto them. For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly see, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse;*

D. WHAT DID THOSE IN OUR TEXT MISS BY OFFERING EXCUSES???

1. They missed the Great Feast....Which represents that which God has prepared for us.
2. All they had to eat was their excuses.....while those who came enjoyed the feast from God. Eternal Life.
3. GOD OFFERS ETERNAL LIFE....WHEN YOU OFFER EXCUSES...THAT IS ALL YOU WILL HAVE.
4. WILL YOU TRADE ETERNAL LIFE FOR AN EXCUSE....