

"Excuses"

8/31/58
Bailey
90c

Scripture Lesson:- St. Luke 14: 16-24.

Text:- Luke 14: 18. "And they all with one consent began to make excuse".

Introduction:- I choose to continue the sermon of last Sunday night on "Excuses". Excuses for not accepting Christ. I want to talk about the excuses people make for not accepting Christ. The devil helps people to make excuses. Not the Lord. I spoke of the excuses offered by the three who are mentioned in the scripture. I also spoke of the excuses people offer for not coming to church, love for the world, and the difficulty of being a Christian. This morning I want to continue the discussion on excuses. There is one excuse I get tired of hearing, that is

I.

There are too many hypocrites in the church. Well, I will find you two hypocrites in the world for every one you find in the church. Besides, I am not asking you to join the church, not that I do not believe in belonging to the church, but I am asking you to the marriage supper of the Lamb. I am asking you to come to Christ first, then we will talk about belonging to the church. There have always been hypocrites in the church, and I presume there always will be. One of the twelve apostles turned out to be a hypocrite. But there will not be one hypocrite at this feast, and if you want to get out of the company they provide you had better come to Christ. If you do not you will have to spend eternity with them. "Follow thou me," says Christ. You are not looking to man, you are looking to Christ. You may find flaws in our characters, but will find none in Christ's. If you really object to the hypocrites I beg of you, come to Christ.

II.

Well, says one, "My excuse will stand if others do not". I am good enough. He would have God,

think he is pure in the sight of God and men. My friend, the word of God says, "There is none righteous, no not one". If you are found with your own garment on, you will be cast out from the feast. He will furnish you with a robe of spotless white if you will accept it, but you need not think you can stand in the presence of the Lord with these miserable rags of self-righteousness about you. The nearer a man gets to God the more he abhors himself. Like Job, he says, "I abhor myself"; or Isaiah when he saw the holy God he cried out, "Woe is me, for I am undone". Come to Christ this morning, he will make you a humble child of his.

III.

I am too bad to be a Christian. Yes, that is correct. "Christ died for the ungodly". Jesus came into the world to save sinners. What did he say to his disciples: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature". The very men whose hands were dripping with the blood of the Son of God had salvation offered to them. Paul said that he was the "chief of sinners". He was saved, and if he was saved, surely there is hope for every man. Jesus invites you just as you are. "Just as I am", (quote it). He will receive you.

IV.

I do not have faith enough: Faith in whom? Faith in God? Well, you have a profound reverence for God? Yes. The very name of God strikes awe to your heart, and yet you do not believe in him. There is no real reason why men cannot believe God. I challenge any infidel to put his finger on one promise God has made which he has not kept. My friend you have no reason for not believing Him. Yes, some men talk as if it were a great misfortune that they do not believe. Listen, "When He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe on me" (that is the sin of the world, "they believe not on me". That is the very root of sin. May God

open our eyes to see that He is true, and may we all be led to put our fullest trust in Christ.

V.

Afraid I would not hold out. Now a very good rule you can make is to never cross a creek until you come to it. You trust Christ to save you now. The devil will throw a little straw across your path, and then tries to magnify it and makes you think it is a great mountain. Do not mind the mountains, trust him to save you now. If he can save today he can keep you tomorrow. You will not have to keep yourself. He will keep you by his grace. The Lord is our keeper, our shepherd. "The Lord is my shepherd." He keeps us. It takes the same grace to keep us that it does to save us, and God has said that His grace is sufficient for us.

VI.

"I have not time to be a Christian. If you were to take some people by the hand and say "My friend, why not accept the invitation now?" If he would say, "Please excuse me at present", I really have not time, I have some very pressing business to attend to tomorrow morning". So it is. Thousands of people say they have no time. No time to be religious. But, my friend, what have you done with all the time that God has given you. The months, the years that have rolled by since you were born. Is it true that you have no time? Had you no time during these twelve months to seek the Kingdom of God? You have learned a trade, and you have not had time to seek God. Listen, and bear in mind, you will some of these days find time to die. You will find time to stand in the presence of the great Judge of the universe. You have no time. Take time. Lay everything aside until you have accepted this invitation. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God". Let your business be suspended. Suppose you do not get so much money tomorrow. What matters so you get Christ. It is better for a man to be sure of salvation than to gain the whole world and lose his own soul.

May God bring you to a decision now. "Behold
now is the accepted time, now is the day of
salvation". If you would ever see the Kingdom
of God, you must decide this question on way
or another. What will you do? Accept him now,
is my prayer.