

THE BIG UNTRUTH No More Excuses – Part 2

ON TV: “God loves you just the way you are.”

ON TV: “For God *so loved* the world...” John 3:16a

ON TV: Excuses

ON TV: From a distance an excuse sounds like an actual reason.

ON TV: “Because”

ON TV: There’s a difference between a “because” and the actual cause.

ON TV: Our excuses are really just lies that we tell ourselves about ourselves.

ON TV: Is it possible, that some of our well-rehearsed reasons, our “becauses” are actually just excuses?

ON TV:

#1: We’re not fooling anyone.

#2: People who make excuses rarely make much of a difference in life.

ON TV: At the root of a lot of our excuses, that we pass off as reasons, is some selfishness.

ON TV:

#3: There is a relationship between our ability to follow Jesus and our willingness to acknowledge our excuses.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “But he replied, ‘But Lord, first, let me go and bury my father...’” Luke 9:59

ON TV/OUTLINE: “Let the dead bury their dead, but you go proclaim the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:60

ON TV/OUTLINE: “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:62

ON TV: How would Jesus respond to your reasons?

ON TV/OUTLINE: “14 Again, it will be like a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. 15 He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.” Matthew 25:14-15

ON TV/OUTLINE: “...Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I’m going to put you in charge of many things. Come share in your master’s happiness!” Matthew 25:23

ON TV/OUTLINE: “Master, the servant said. ‘I knew that you were a hard man harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed...’” Matthew 25:24a

ON TV/OUTLINE: “...Master, the servant said. ‘I knew that you were a hard man harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid...’” Matthew 25:24-25a

ON TV: At the root of just about every single excuse is a fear.

ON TV: Is it possible that disguised in our excuses is a fear that we’ve never dealt with, or that we’ve never been willing to admit. And that fear actually fuels our excuses.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “25 So I was afraid and went out, and I hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you. 26 And his master replied...” Matthew 25:25-26a

ON TV/OUTLINE: “26b ...you wicked, lazy servant! So, you knew that I harvest where I’ve not sown and that I gather where I’ve not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned, I would have received it back with interest. 30 Throw that worthless servant outside into the darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 25:26b-27, 30

ON TV: That people who make excuses go to Hell.

ON TV: How would Jesus respond to your reasons?