

Sermon Series: BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

Sermon Title: "Good Excuses"

Scripture: Colossians 3:17

Intro: Life is full of \_\_\_\_\_ (choices) and \_\_\_\_\_ (excuses)!

Review: In the story of the Good Samaritan, three characters are faced with the same situation. They each \_\_\_\_\_ (see) the victim, and each has the \_\_\_\_\_ (ability) to respond.

INSTEAD OF EXCUSES, LET'S MAKE GOOD CHOICES

1. Do What You \_\_\_\_\_ (Can)
  - Divine Providence has put you in a position to help
  - You can always pray...
2. Don't Let Your Plans Become \_\_\_\_\_ (Idols)
  - Planning is a good thing...
  - However, plans have become idols if we are unwilling to change when Divine Providence puts us in a position to help

**BIG IDEA: GOD HAS PERMISSION TO CHANGE MY PLANS**

3. \_\_\_\_\_ (Prioritize) the Needs of Your Neighbor
  - Ministry usually messes up your plans...
  - Ask yourself: What would Jesus do
4. Do Whatever \_\_\_\_\_ (Glorifies) God in the Name of Jesus
  - Obeying God's Word brings Glory to Him...
  - "In the name of Jesus" means we are serving in the place of Jesus

**BIG IDEA: WHEN WE SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS, WE ARE PUTTING HIS FINGERPRINTS ON OUR ACTIONS**

5. Religious Duty Cannot Be an Acceptable Excuse for \_\_\_\_\_ (Ignoring) the Needs of Our Neighbor
  - Our choices are usually not between "good" and "bad" but between "good" and "best"
  - The "good" can easily become the enemy of the "best"

CLOSE: "In Ministry...I used to complain about the interruptions...and then I realized that the interruptions were my job!"