

Scriptural Devotional 10-10-24

Cristwood Senior Living, Shoreline

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Excuses, Excuses

Great excuses in the Bible:

- **Adam, made the excuse: Genesis 3:12:** “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.”
- **The woman made the excuse: Genesis 3:13:** “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”
- **Moses made excuses: Genesis 3:11-4:1) “Who am I?” = 1) I am insignificant. 2) “What if they don’t believe me or listen to me?” = I do not believe it can happen. 3) “I have never been eloquent in speech. I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” = I can’t, I am not a preacher. 4) “Please Lord, send someone else!” = I don’t want to go. Send someone else, anyone but me.**
- **On the brink of going into the promised land, Numbers 13:25-33: Ten of the twelve spies made excuses:** “We are not able, the people are too strong, the people are too many, the cities are too large, and the giants are too big,” (paraphrase).
- **Jeremiah made the excuse:** “I am too young.” (Jer.1:6).
- **Sarah made the excuse:** “I am too old.” (Genesis 18:1).

Convicting thought: What excuses do I hide behind? What’s your excuse?

Making excuses is part of our sinful human nature that we must guard against.

In Scripture, God warns us of the danger of making excuses:

- **Romans 2:1:** “Therefore you have no excuse, every one of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.”
- **Romans 1:20:** “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and Divine nature, have been clearly seen,

being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

- **Luke 14:16-24:** “A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, “Come, for everything is ready now.” But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, “I have bought a piece of land, and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.” Another one said, “I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.” Another one said, “I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.” And the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, “Go out at once into the streets and the lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and the crippled the blind and the lame...For I tell you, none of those men who were invited taste of my dinner.”
- **Luke 9:59-62:** “And Jesus said to another, “Follow me.” But he said, “Permit me first to go and bury my father.” But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the Kingdom of God.” Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say goodbye to those at home.” But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”
- **Galatians 6:7:** “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”
- **James 4:17:** “Therefore, to the one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.”
- **Proverbs 22:13:** “The lazy one (manufactures excuses and) says, “There is a lion outside! I will be killed (if I go out to work)!”

Q- What is a good Biblical antigen for the excuses we make, for the excuses we hide behind? Answer: I really like *Philippians 4:13: “I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME.”* Use this Scripture the next time you are tempted to hide behind an excuse.