

WITHOUT EXCUSE

by
Janie M. Polachek

"But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused'" (Luke 14:18).

In the 14th chapter of Luke, beginning with the 15th verse, it tells of the parable of the Great Supper, which of course we know to mean the call of the gospel going forth. The above paragraph shows why many people do not serve God; they are too busy making a living. Material things mean too much to them. They just don't have time.

Many people think they have to work seven days a week in order to live. But I have found that since I became a Child of God and put him first in my life, all my needs have been supplied; and God is no respecter of persons. "Then Peter opened his mouth and said: 'In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality'" (Acts 10:34). If you become a Child of God, he will do the same for you. When you stand before God in the judgment, what will your answer be to him? Would you not be ashamed to say, "Sorry Lord, I was too busy making a living. I just didn't have time to love and serve you while down there on earth." Somehow I believe, according to God's Holy Word, that you will stand in his holy presence "without excuse." Oh, sinner friend, turn to him before it is too late!

"And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused'" (Luke 14:10). This is the excuse of many people today. They say their business is such that they cannot take time out to serve God. In other words, they are saying, "I am putting my business ahead of God." God knows that people have to earn a living, but he wants to have first place in our lives. In fact, it must be this way, because God will not take second place in our lives. In Matthew 6:33 God says, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." He wants us to put him before our business. His claim is first.

So, dear friends, this is no excuse for not accepting God as your Savior and living for him. Put him first in all things, and he will give you more of everything than you can possibly imagine. He has for me. He has worked things for me in a marvelous way, and he will do the same for you, *if* you will become his child. Then when you stand in his most holy presence you will not be afraid. You will not be like that one who heeded not the gospel call. That one will stand in the judgment "without excuse."

"Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come'" (Luke 14:20). Many will tell you, "I cannot serve God. I have an unsaved husband." This excuse will not hold up, as each of us is responsible for our own salvation. One can still remain with an unsaved loved one and yet serve God. We must not let an unsaved companion keep us from serving God. I know many women who have an unsaved husband, yet they are devout Christians. Also, I know several devout Christian men who have unsaved wives. They go right on loving and serving God. In fact, one man is a minister of the gospel. As it says in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." So again, we will stand in the judgment "without excuse" if we let anything come between us and serving God.

"So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed, and the lame and the blind'" (Luke 14:21). This shows us that the gospel call goes out to all. Of course, we know there are many sitting in heathen darkness who never have opportunity to hear the gospel, because there is no one to take them the message of salvation. But those who can hear and won't will have to face an angry God in the judgment. "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels'" (Matt. 25:41). The gospel call is universal. Thus those who have rejected the call of the gospel, who have

refused to love and serve God, will be "without excuse."

"Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled'" (Luke 14:23). We must go out and talk to people and try to get them to accept our wonderful Lord. We must truly be soul winners for Jesus. The wonderful Gospel is for all. What the world needs is Jesus. Many times when we invite folks to come hear the gospel, and they refuse to listen or refuse to come, they are not refusing us but the wonderful Christ of Calvary, who died for the sins of the world. When they face God in the judgment, they will be "without excuse."

"For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper" (Luke 14:24). Those with whom God has spoken time after time, and who have refused to give him their life and have refused to serve him, will one day hear those dreadful words in Matthew 25:41 and stand in the judgment "without excuse."

These are some of the present-day excuses that people give when you ask them to go to church with you to hear the gospel. Many will say, "The weather is too hot," "the seats are too hard," "I can't sit through a sermon without falling asleep," "I don't feel well," "the weather is too bad," "the weather is too cold," "I work six days a week and Sunday is the only day I have to rest." If it be a woman she may say "that is the only day I have to do the laundry" or "clean the house," etc. They will give you a dozen reasons. Surely they would be so very ashamed to offer these excuses to a most Holy God in the day of judgment. So I am very much afraid they will be "without excuse."

Oh, sinner, won't you heed the Master's call? Today is the day of salvation. It tells us this in 2 Corinthians 6:2: "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." I can truly recommend Jesus my wonderful Lord to one and all. He has stood by me when others have let me down. He will never leave us or forsake us if we are his children, and if we trust and obey him in all things.

I wrote this tract because God asked me to. He gave me the name several weeks ago. I pray that this tract will help some sinner to find God. I leave it with you friends. Will you stand before God "without excuse"?