

Excuses
Exodus 3:10-11, 4:10-16
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the importance of not making excuses for our spiritual shortcomings.

Intro:

1. Do you ever make excuses?
2. Why does a person make excuses?
3. Does God accept excuses from anyone-even those who aren't obedient?

I. Excuses of Moses – a great leader

A. **Ex 3:10-11, 4:10-16** (focus on **4:10,13**)

1. Moses may not have realized how important his role was going to be.
2. The name Moses is mentioned approx 788 times in the Bible, not including indirect references.

B. God uses those who don't see their own abilities

1. Moses – was a true leader. He was patient beyond measure.
2. Timothy – the young evangelist (**1 Tim 4:12**).
 - a. “Young” Timothy may have been more knowledgeable than many of those who were older (**2 Tim 1:5** – He had been learning since an early age.)

II. Excuses for unfaithfulness

A. Aaron (**Ex 32:22-24**)

1. Aaron's blamed others.
2. His excuse was that he was giving the people what they wanted.

B. The commands of God are not too difficult (**1 Jn 5:3, Deut 30:11-14**)

1. The excuse that God's commands are too difficult is only true to those who don't want to change.
2. God's commands are clear, to those of an honest heart.
3. There may be “more important” matters on the minds of some (**Lk 9:57-62, Lk 14:18-20**)
 - a. Others say that they have more important things to do. This can be said by words and by actions.
 - b. Should anything come before follow God?
 - c. Now is not a good time (**Acts 24:25**)
 - d. We don't have forever (**James 4:14**).
 - e. We don't have any time more than what God gives us.

III. Do you have any excuses?

A. I need my sleep.

1. Most of us have jobs and other tasks that wear us down during the week, does that excuse us from worshipping and praising God?
2. Sunday is my only day off-Is there a better way to spend it?

B. I'm too busy to attend services.

1. Too many things to watch on TV.
2. Too many tasks around the house I need to do.
3. I can pick up an extra shift at work.
4. It's the only day I have off.

C. I'm already a Christian.

1. Since I'm a "Christian" I don't have to go to church.
2. I just read my Bible once in a while and pray, I'm fine.

D. I've been doing this for years why should I change now?

1. Sinful lifestyle or activities (Rom 6)?
2. Tradition or length of time doesn't make things ok? What is wrong in the sight of God doesn't change because of time.

Conc:

1. Excuses keep people away from God.
2. Excuses can keep us from being the servants we ought to be for God.
3. Are you ready to stop making excuses?
4. Full Invitation