

NO GOOD EXCUSES: WHY WE SAY NO TO GOD

MAIN TAKEAWAY

God invites everyone to His great banquet, but people make excuses rather than give reasons for not following Christ. A true disciple says yes to God—to love Jesus, deny self, and impact others.

INTRODUCTION

Share an example of an unreasonable excuse that you have heard or said. Why do we make excuses?

What kind of spiritual excuses do people make? How might this be seen in the different stages of life—youth, adulthood, and the later years?

UNDERSTANDING

READ LUKE 14:7-24

Excuse #1: Being possessed by our possessions (v.18). How does the pursuit of possessions impact spiritual growth (1 Timothy 6:10)? What happens when you put God first in all things?

Excuse #2: Making your career more important than Christ (v.19). Although work is good and can honor God (Proverbs 13:4; Colossians 3:23), a line is crossed when it becomes the thing that pushes God out. In what way do people reject Christ, not because they are hostile, but because they are booked and busy?

Excuse #3: Allowing relationships to be more important than God (v.20). How might human affection keep us from God? Why shouldn't we expect people to meet all of our longings and expectations?

READ LUKE 14:25-35

A true disciple loves Jesus more than anyone or anything else (v.26). How can you tell if God is first in your life, or if He is somewhere else on your list?

A true disciple must take up his cross and follow Jesus (v.27.). What does it mean to have “Main Character Syndrome,” and how does this uniquely cause people to avoid self-denial? Why will you find yourself if you lose yourself?

A true disciple will impact their culture (v.34-35). How does salt illustrate the ways Christians are to influence others? How should you “hear” Jesus’ teaching?

APPLICATION

Pastor Greg said, “Every disciple is a Christian, but not every ‘Christian’ is a disciple.” Explain the difference. How have you seen this in the way people make spiritual excuses?

What excuses have you been making that hinder your spiritual growth? How can you seek the Lord regarding this (Isaiah 55:6)?

We are to urge people to come to Christ’s invitation, so God’s house will be full (v.21-24). How do people’s excuses impact your evangelism? How have you learned to respond?

PRAYER

Thank Jesus for His invitation to know and follow Him. Put God first in all things, and pray for His impact upon your relationships, possessions, and work. Pray for the people in your life who are making spiritual excuses.