

There are a lot of people who look for and who find excuses as to why they can't do something or they make just up excuses in their minds to get them out of doing something.

The Father and Lord Jesus knows how that i have many times **made excuses** so that i might get out of going somewhere or doing something that i did not want to do i suppose i am not alone because we have all done that at one time or another in our lives.

All my life i ran away from God and i always made jokes about God to anyone who spoke to me about Him looking back now i really don't know why i did that when asking myself the question did i believe in God back then yes i think i did in my own way because as a child i did go to Sunday school at the Methodist church for a while and then to the Lutheran Church for a while so yes i think i did believe in God **but** i just did not want to commit myself to a relationship with God at that time.

Well guess what Church now to me is my home and Church is where my family gathers to worship and Praise my Father in Heaven and my older and most dearest brother Lord Jesus Christ **Who** as a lot of people and Churches conveniently forget **is the head of our Church** and their Church **not man.**

Some people have in the past said to me that i am worshipping a ghost someone Who i cannot see or touch or talk to well i hate to be the one who tells them **but their wrong they are so wrong** i worship my brother and Father **Who are real** i am blessed because my brother-- **He is a great KING** Who gave His life for me and for you and yes for them too He is real and i can talk to Him and yes i know that He can touch me i may not be able to see or touch Him but i **know that He is real** and **i know that He touches my heart** and **i know that He guides me and teaches me** but we **all** need Faith in Him that is what we all need it is our faith and our belief that is the key to understanding things that we otherwise could and would not understand.

It is our faith yours and mine that instinctively within each of us tells us to believe in someone Who we can't see Jesus said in **John 20:29** **blessed are the ones who have not seen but have believed.**

We have been blessed to have eyes and ears and a wonderful mind and it is our eyes and ears and mind that unlock the understanding which the Lord has placed in our minds and in our hearts.

There are so many people out there who will not listen and believe that there is a God a great Father in Heaven and that we have a Saviour Who died for us and Who loves us and Who cares so much for us.

With belief or faith comes this incredible understanding that swamps did not produce birdlife or animal life or human life or any other life we believe in our hearts that there is a Great God who created all things Who loves us and Who provides for all of our needs and He teaches us when we come to Him but we must come to **Him first** because He will not force Himself upon us.

**Revelation 3:20 tells** us crystal clear **behold I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.**

The door i strongly believe is the doorway to our hearts the doorway which we and **we alone must open** in order for our Lord and Saviour to enter **into** our lives.

And until we unlock and open that door in our hearts Jesus will stand outside of our lives.

There is something also which so many people miss in that verse and that is the key we must first **come to Him** when He calls us **when He knocks** Jesus said **behold I stand at the door and knock** So we must want Him in us in our lives guiding us teaching us and providing for all of our needs because as i said the Father through His Son Lord Jesus will not force Himself **on anyone-anyone who does not first want Him in their life.**

If and there's that huge word **if** if people say that they love the Lord and His Church just half as much as they loved football or V8 racing or cricket or any other sporting event Churches would be packed to the rafters but the Lord must come first in their life and everything else in order of your personal priority.

And remember also it is not mans church it is the Lord's Church He and He alone is the head of the Church we are His servants not His slaves because there is a difference a servant is someone who as the definition of the word says are a devoted and helpful follower or supporter that is what we are followers and supporters of our great leader our Church head Lord Jesus Christ just read **Colossians 1:18** if you are in doubt of that.

The trouble is excuses are made not to attend church excuses like this is the semi final or the golf is on and it is celebrity charity day today but guess what the Lord has never made excuses where you or i are concerned and that my friends is a fact.

We are to be lights to the world and we are to shine our lights reflect our lights so that it shines onto others helping someone in need or helping a close friend or family member is shining our lights.

Jesus said giving a helping hand is what we should do if a neighbour's sheep falls into a pit on a Sabbath day we are not to walk past it and say to ourselves that poor sheep oh well its not my problem it may live till tomorrow and if it does then i will help Ron or Barbara pull it out - -- it doesn't matter if it is not a Sabbath day every day every day 365 days a year we are to reflect the Lord's love and light in us everyday we are to help others everyday we are to help get that poor sheep out of the pit that is treating our neighbour as ourself that is loving one another as the Lord loved us the 11th Commandment as Norm Womersley spoke about a while ago.

Now the 11th commandment according to Ronald Regan was Thou shalt not speak ill of any fellow Republican not even close to what Jesus taught is it.

The modern kids of today 11th Commandment is don't get caught dude.

Have you ever asked yourself Why is it that we feel that we can offer excuses when it comes to things of the church or going to church that would sound ridiculous if we used the same excuse anywhere else.

Have you ever wondered to yourself about what would happen **if** people were as intense and committed and determined about church as they are about sports or any number of other pastimes that are around us today?

Excuses like every time I went to church they asked for money. Well my answer is whose money is it anyway everything belongs to God Who created it all.

Or they might say the people at church are not very friendly. Well maybe if you look at yourself maybe you are not friendly either so maybe you should look at yourself first before judging others. The sermons are too boring and go on and on forever.

Well so does football and cricket and golf.  
One could whinge and whine about football as well i suppose.  
The referee made a really bad decision but that doesn't stop you watching or going to the game it just gets your blood pressure up because you are angry

I was sitting with some people who made me mad because they hated my team and said bad things about them.  
People will always find something to find excuses for and to whinge about when things do not go their own way.

I don't want to take my children to church because I want them to choose for themselves that is a modern day excuse.

Exodus chapter 3 we read about God telling His servant Moses that He has heard the cry of Israel for deliverance and that he is now ready to deliver them.

In verse ten God said to Moses **and now go, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring forth My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.**

Now that was a direct order from our great God to Moses His servant to do something really really special.

But wait just hang on a minute Moses has now been called up to serve the Lord God and Moses has been given an important mission straight from the mouth of God Himself to carry out.

But something is wrong Moses does not immediately jump up and start heading for Egypt with a bounce in his step and a song in his heart.  
No.

In fact just the opposite we read that Moses is full of excuses Moses offers Excuses **Instead** of Service.

And please **do not pass judgment on Moses** because the real truth of the matter is if you are asked to do something that you feel you can not handle either by God through the Bible or His Church or someone else all the excuses will start one by one the excuses will start believe me i know just ask Ron Barbara and John Sianidis because every time i was asked to give an opening or closing prayer the excuses started and boy i had a lot of them.

I myself am guilty because i made excuses instead of serving.

What was Moses' excuse well the 1st excuse is in **Exodus 3:11**  
Moses said who am i that i should go to Pharaoh, and that i should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt.

Maybe the word Egypt scared the sandals off Moses and also the thought of what may happen to him if he went back there remember he was not exactly Egypt's most popular person.

**Excuse number 2** verse 13 also the number of rebellion, behold when i come to the children of Israel and shall say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they shall say to me, what is His name, **what shall i say to them.**

Moses asked a question in one breathe then attempted to answer that same question in the very next breathe in an attempt to sneak out of this mission.

Moses thought he had come up with a pretty good argument saying what shall i say to them i can see Moses throwing his hands up in the air saying under his breathe gee why choose me of all people.

Looking back now to when i was asked to give the opening or closing prayer i was being asked to serve our Lord God and His Church by taking some of the weight off others shoulders and by putting a little of it onto my shoulder by lightening the load on others but all i did was to make excuses one after another.

**Excuse number 3** is in chapter 4 verse 1 **but behold, they will not believe me nor hearken to my voice, for they will say, the LORD has not appeared to you.**

There you go another question and another answer he himself put forward another excuse how does Moses know what they will say maybe he had a mobile phone in his pocket and he rang someone in Egypt we all make up answers in our minds as to why we should not do something we pre-empt what people will say or not say just **another excuse.**

We must give Moses credit though he is trying his **very best not to go to Egypt.**

**Excuse number 4** verse 10 Moses said **O my LORD i am not a man of words now, nor since you have spoken to Your servant, but i am slow of speech and of a slow tongue.**

Yep i used that one i don't know what to say i used that one i will only make a mess of it guilty i am scared [more like terrified] yes i myself am guilty because i made **excuses** instead of serving.

**Verse 13 excuse 5** once again the number of rebellion, **O MY LORD, I pray You, send by the hand of him whosoever else You will send.**  
Now i feel that God was getting a little bit angry at Moses by this time because we read in verse 14 **and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses,** and He said, do I not know Aaron the Levite, your brother that he can speak well, and also behold, he comes forth to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart 15, and you shall speak to him and you shall put words in his mouth, and i will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and shall teach you what you shall say.

Yes i fully believe that the Lord knew that excuses would be offered up to Him By Moses but the Lord wanted Moses His servant to serve Him because Moses was called into service but GOD had already executed a back up plan through Aaron and this plan would have been executed some time before Moses found himself talking to the LORD at the burning bush and making up all those excuses because also remember Aaron had to travel from Egypt probably by the long way around or by boat over the Red sea to where Moses was at the mountain of GOD at Mt Horeb and how did Aaron know where to find Moses another plan which God put in action maybe delivered by star trek couriers or the hand of an Angel we are not told.

Yes more often than not our excuses just pile up and pile up like used newspapers until they get so high they get in the way of doing something for God and that is serving God in **any way** that we can.

Moses had several valid reasons so he thought for not following the call of God.

And as i showed Moses thought up a series of five excuses as to why he should not be called into service by GOD.

Moses first excuse expressed doubt in himself **Moses said who am i** but his second excuse unfortunately expresses doubt in God Moses said and they shall say to me, what is His name, what shall i say to them. and we know that GOD tells Moses in verses 24 and 15 I AM that I AM. Yes excuse after excuse.

Lets look at another wonderful example of excuses.

Lets now look at the feast Parable which Jesus spoke about in [Luke chapter 14.12-27.](#)

Don't get this parable mixed up with the wedding feast this is a feast like a huge dinner party but i strongly feel that there is more to this dinner than what we immediately read in the parable.

[Luke 14:12](#) says and He also said to him, who had invited Him, when you make a dinner or supper, do not call your friends, nor your brethren nor your relatives, nor rich neighbours, lest they also invite you in return, and a recompense be made to you.

The one Jesus was talking to was as we read in verse 1 is one of the rulers of the Pharisees. Who had invited Jesus along with other guests for dinner or lunch and as we read in verse 7 the guests were kind of fighting for the best seating positions and outside the house was a poor and disabled man who had dropsy who Jesus had just healed before attending this lunch but who was not invited to lunch so while at lunch Jesus spoke this parable of a supper or lunch.

However this parable's meaning i believe goes back a lot further to [Matthew 4:17](#) where we read from that time Jesus began to preach and say, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven was at hand.

Remember who Jesus is speaking to when He said that 1 Jesus was speaking to mostly all Jews who were sitting at the table at this lunch and 2 it is also for us today now that it has been recorded in the bible.

The invited guests at this lunch would have without a doubt understood exactly what Jesus meant when He spoke this parable and all the guests i feel were of the upper class or upper society.

Jesus in His parable said that when the master of the house heard all these flimsy excuses that his invited guests had made up why they could not come to his lunch he was **very angry**.

So the master of the house told his servant to forget all about the invited guests and the guest list he wanted him to go back out and search all the back streets and all the alleyways of the town and invite **the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame**" to attend as we read in verse 21.

Now i would like you to remember back to the man who was standing out side this house where Jesus was invited who Jesus healed just before sitting down to lunch with the other invited guests this man i believe was On Jesus' mind when He gave this parable and now i

believe that this same man was also on the minds of the guests as Jesus spoke this parable and this is why i feel that the invited guests knew what Jesus was saying.

So we read that the servant went out and gathered people together for this lunch and after he had brought in lots of the down and out townspeople and as we read there was still more empty places at the table in the banquet hall.

So the master again sent his servant go out but this time he was to do a much wider search **verses 23** says **then the lord said to the servant Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come, so that my house will be full.**

The servant was told by the master to compel the people to come now compel is a pretty strong word for Jesus to have used because it means that the servant was to force or make people come and the servant was not to take no for an answer and i feel if there was a no answer from someone then it **would be on the head of the one who said no** not on the servant's head he simply delivered as a good servant the invitations.

Then Jesus finished his parable off with equally as harsh words as we read in verse 24 **for I tell you, not one of those men who were invited shall taste of my supper.**

The My meaning the lord of this supper.

Now once again that wonderful verse comes to mind **many are called but few are chosen** or maybe in light of that parable we could say many are invited but unfortunately for them they all made excuses why they could not attend.

So once again we see just like Moses and his excuses all of the invited guests had excuses as to why they could not attend this lunch one wanted to look at a new field that he bought probably at this day and age he would be a property developer.

Another bought 5 pairs oxen and wanted to test them possibly today and this age he is a rev head farmer probably who just bought a brand new V8 diesel Massy Ferguson tractor and wanted to rip his field apart.

Another just got married and could not attend maybe this is a valid reason in their eyes remember upon marriage two become one and who knows maybe they all had better things to do. But they could have also used this lunch as a wedding lunch before setting out on their honeymoon.

So everyone of the invited guests seemed to come up with what they believed was a valid excuse as to why they could not attend this supper.

And i hope that you all noticed that the only one doing any of the serving was **the servant** the **loyal servant** who did exactly as his master had told him to do and he did not **question or argue** and he did not find or make up any excuses as to why he couldn't do as the master commanded him to do.

The servant was loyal and obedient.

Jesus i feel is telling us not to get too comfortable with the things of this world because the love for the things of this world may get in the way of the big picture and I believe there is a big picture ahead of each of us.

Now after reading through this parable and reading about the events leading up to Jesus presenting to the guests and to us this parable i feel that there is also another reason for and behind this Parable which Jesus gave look closely at **verses 14 and 15** where Jesus said **and you will be blessed, for they do not have means to repay you, but you shall be recompensed at the resurrection, then one of those who sat at the table with Him, after hearing these things** [thats is the things before this parable about exalting one's self or thinking you are better than some one else continuing with verse 15] **he said to Jesus, Blessed is the one who shall eat in the Kingdom of God.**

That statement by the guest i feel prompted this parable and is i feel the key because he said **Blessed is the one who shall eat in the Kingdom of God.**

This guest knew exactly what Jesus was saying and he understood that the poor have no way to repay the rich he also understood that humbling ones self is far better than exalting ones self of thinking more of yourself than you should by fighting over the best seats like all the other guests were.

Big noting ones self only gives someone a swollen head look at the socialites of this world everyone wants to be seen with them to be seen at their party or dinner just watch the television especially the

Melbourne cup party everyone is trying to out do the other bigger and better hats more costly and colourful dresses which are designed and exclusively made by some big name designer and the swollen head list goes on.

Jesus is not against anyone having money Jesus was and still is i feel against this kind of self thinking of self importance big noting ones self for ones own self **gratification** Jesus was then and still is king of Kings and Lord of Lords but he did not go around beating a drum telling everyone just Who He really was Jesus humbled Himself Jesus did not make any excuses because He loves us **Jesus was a true servant King** and Jesus i believe led by example.

The man who we read about in verse 15 is a Jew and by the looks of his statement he was looking forward to dining in the Messianic kingdom however he most probably subscribed to the popular teaching at that time that only the Jews would be part of that very special kingdom.

The parable which Jesus is telling i feel is aimed at completely expelling that idea because the following explanation makes it **very clear** because the man did mention eating in the kingdom of God so therefore i feel there can be no mistake Jesus is definitely i feel through this parable speaking about the Kingdom of God.

The master of the house although Jesus did not actually say it in this parable is i believe God The Father and the great supper will be held in the kingdom of God a metaphor that was suggested by the one speaking to Jesus at the table.

The invited guests which Jesus 1st mentioned were a picture of the Jewish nation.

The kingdom was prepared for them but when Jesus came preaching that "**the kingdom of heaven is at hand** as we read in **Matthew 4:17** He was rejected by the Jews as their Messiah.

Jesus also said in **John 1:11** that **He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.**

The flimsy excuses for skipping the supper are on the part of those making the excuses really stupid to say the least.

No one in their right mind would buy a block of land without seeing it first it might be located under a lake or in the case of some blocks of land

sold a few years ago on Maclay island under water when the tide came in.

And the same can be said for anyone buying 5 pairs of oxen and wanting to try them out they could have been ready for the butcher shop normally one would buy after seeing and testing them.

And what exactly would keep a newly married couple from attending a very special social event they have a lifetime together to look forward to.

If you look closely at what i feel Jesus is saying all three excuses in Jesus' parable reveal insincerity on the part of all those invited guests. They were all too much involved in other things the things of this world yes we all have things which make life easier but if Jesus or an angel of His knocked on my door and said to me come the Father has called you to dinner and it has been prepared for you and your brothers and sisters what would you do if you knew that you have been invited to dine in the kingdom say hang on i cant come just yet i still have a few things to do and a few places to go.

No i don't think you would if you knew that you had just been invited to dine in the Kingdom Of God.

I feel that the interpretation which Jesus was putting forward in this parable to this man and also to all the other Guests at the table because they would have heard what Jesus was saying and would have been very interested in everything that Jesus had to say is that the Jews of Jesus' day **had no valid excuse for spurning Him or His message** and in actual fact they had **every reason to accept Him as their Messiah** after either hearing or seeing the great miracles which He through the Father preformed.

Think about it because they should not have had to think about it at all just look at the timeline by comparing the gospels Jesus had already by the time of this dinner when He gave this parable raised 2 people from death the widows son at Nain and the daughter of Jarius' who was the leader of the synagogue at Capernaum healed lepers given sight to the blind how could miracles like these go un-noticed or unheard of by these men **especially** when Jesus was in the home of one of the leaders of the Pharisees the ones who most assuredly would have heard and known what Jesus had done because they were watching His every step like hungry hawks.

Jesus made it very clear that the invitation to the Kingdom of God is open to all people and that invitation does not matter if the those called are maimed have dropsy are blind or a leper or just poor and downtrodden by the upper class of society.

To the Father **all people** are important and all poor and sick people are not unclean as the Pharisees classed them to be.

**1 Timothy 2:3-4** makes this call to everyone very clear **for this is good and acceptable before God our Saviour, Who desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.**

All men Jew or Gentile rich or poor able bodied or disabled everyone.

The blind and leper and many poor were the types of people who the Pharisees considered unclean and under God's curse.

**John 9:1-2** is one example about the blind man even the Lords disciples asked who had sinned that he was born blind he or his parents. look at **John 9:34** the Pharisees said **you were born wholly in sin and you are teaching us, and they threw him out.**

Jesus however taught that the kingdom of God was available even to those who the Pharisees judged as sinners and unclean.

Also by looking closely at our Lord's words to His servant in this parable you will see clearly that the servant was sent further a field when all the invited guests snubbed the masters call to dine first he sent the servant locally as we read in **verse 21** which tells us he was sent into the streets and lanes of the city and gather the disabled and downtrodden.

Then the Lord sent His servant i believe out into the world or further out again from the city's streets and lanes because here we have highways and hedges mentioned plural and he was to compel or make those he found to come.

That call i feel went out to the whole world and is still out there calling to the dinner all who believe and **all who want to come to the knowledge of the truth of God.**

The fact that the master in the parable sends the servant further afield to compel everyone to come indicates i believe that the **offer of salvation** would be extended to the Gentile world in that parable and as

we read in [Acts 1:8](#) but you yourselves shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria [being streets and lanes of the city], and unto the **unto ends of the earth**. being into the highways and hedges and note the highways being plural.

The master or The Father is not satisfied with a partially full banquet hall He wants every seat at His table to be filled.

I read somewhere that God is more willing to save sinners than sinners are to be saved.

Wow i thought how true is that some people just don't realize how sad and blinded to the truth they are.

I feel that all those who ignored the invitation to the banquet chose their own punishment and unfortunately they missed the boat.

We know this because the master of the dinner respects their free choice to do as they wanted to do rather than come dine with Him He made this crystal clear when He said **not one of those men who were invited shall taste of my supper**.

So it will be I feel with God's judgment upon those who choose to reject Christ and if they reject Christ then like the master said at this supper they **shall not taste of my supper** and by those words they will have their choice confirmed and they may never taste the joys of heaven.

The basic message of the Parable which Jesus spoke that day at the head Pharisees lunch about the Great Banquet could be viewed this way.

The tragedy of the Jewish rejection of Jesus Christ as the Messiah has opened the door of salvation to the Gentiles.

The blessings of the kingdom are available to **all** who repent and are willing to humble themselves and come to the knowledge of Christ having complete faith in His promises.

The inclusion of the Gentiles is i feel a fulfilment of [Hosea 2:23](#) **I will say to her that was Not my people, you are My people, and they shall say, You are my God**.

As i said earlier and as recorded in [2 Peter 3:9](#) **God is not desiring that any should perish, but all should come to repentance**.

I believe that you and i have been called to dine with the Father at His table and the call has gone out into the whole world.

so please-please make sure that you do not make any excuses and please do not let the things of this world get in your way and blind your eyes to the truth so that you cannot see the beautiful future that the Father through Lord Jesus Christ has prepared for you we must be like the Master's servant Who i feel is a picture of Lord Jesus Who Himself was willing to serve His Master and He never once made any excuses not even to spare His own life from the cross.

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