

Excuses Become Bosses

MOVING BEYOND EXCUSES

From a distance, excuses seem_____.

Excuses are _____ that keep us from moving forward.

Question #1: Is it _____ that some of my well-rehearsed reasons are actually excuses?

There's a relationship between our ability to follow Jesus and our _____ to acknowledge our excuses.

Over time, excuses become _____.

_____ sees through excuses and calls you out on it.

Luke 9:59 Then He [Jesus] said to another man, "Follow Me."

Luke 9:59 The man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

Luke 9:60 But Jesus told him, "Let the dead bury their own dead."

Luke 9:61 Still another said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first let me bid farewell to my family."

Luke 9:62 Then Jesus declared, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and then looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:22 On hearing this, Jesus told him, "You still lack one thing: Sell everything you own and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me." 23But when the ruler heard this, he became very sad, because he was extremely wealthy.

Luke 9: 28 "Look," said Peter, "we have left all we had to follow You."

Luke 9:29-30 "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God 30 will fail to receive many times more in this age—and in the age to come, eternal life."

Using excuses is forgetting who's keeping _____.

Question #2: How would Jesus _____ to your excuses?

Matthew 25:23 His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master!'

Matthew 25:24 *Finally, the servant who had received the one talent came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.'*

Matthew 25:25 *I was afraid...*

At the root of most of our excuses is _____.

Matthew 25:25 *...(I) went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what belongs to you.'*

Matthew 25:26 *'You wicked, lazy servant!' replied his master. 'You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 Then you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received it back with interest.'*

Matthew 25:30 *And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

“Weeping and gnashing of teeth” is a phrase used in the Bible to describe profound despair and _____ linked to the consequences of one’s actions or choices.

Jesus is so disturbingly strong in His responses because He doesn’t want us _____ in excuses we’ve dressed up as reasons, that fill us with great regret.