

“They all began to make excuses” Luke chapter 14 verse 18

And pretty pathetic excuses they were too. Once, when I got a bit frustrated because few people were coming to a regular meeting, citing business, or inconvenience, someone said to me “People will always find ways to do the things they want to do.”

That's true. If people really want to do something, they will prioritise it and make room for it in their lives, even if it means moving, cancelling or postponing other things. Jesus tells this parable of a man who gave a great feast, and sent his servants to tell the guests it was ready. One said he had bought a field and had to go and see it, another that he had to try out some oxen he had just purchased, and another that he had just got married and this somehow prevented him.

None of these things could have kept those people away if they had really wanted to go. Their excuses said more about their attitude to the host than anything else. They were so feeble that all they betrayed was contempt for him.

The meaning of the parable is obvious. Jesus has been sent to bring the Jews back to faith in God, but they have refused. The offer will now be held out to the gentiles. God has an abundance of life for anyone who comes into his kingdom by faith in Christ, and the invitation is extended to everybody.

What have you done with the invitation to come to fullness of life in Christ? Do you think you are too busy now, and will come later? People have said that until it is too late. Do you hold back because of things in your life you know won't please God, but you don't want to give up? Jesus came so that you could be free of those things. Do you shy away from bringing your life under God's governance, care and guidance? But what governs your life now?

If you are a believer already, but are not enjoying the kind of life that God wants for you. Why not? It is possible to know Jesus as your Saviour, but to hold back from making him Lord. He can only bring the abundant blessings of his life into the areas of our lives that are submitted to him.

Let's stop making lame excuses and ask God to overcome the things in us which hold us at away from enjoying all he has in us.

Prayer

Father, I know that I make excuses. There are things in my life that, in my human nature, I don't want to let go of, so I come up with all sorts of reasons why I don't open certain areas of my life to you. Please show me where those places are, and give me the humility and courage to submit them to you. In Jesus' name, amen.

*All these devotionals can be found on our website [inghamitechurch.org](http://inghamitechurch.org) on the 'Resources' page. Click on the link to go there.*