

God wants us to party

Last week I spoke about the need to keep vision at the forefront of our world. When satisfaction squeezes out vision we lose sight of the potential God has put in us.

This week is the counterbalance of last week's message. When all we do is vision based, or vision driven, or spirit driven we can't get to the party. We will inevitably get burnt up. Burn out faces hundreds of people every day. People get too absorbed in the potential on their world.

God wants us to party.

Luke 14:15-24

Every one of us at some time or another has made excuses for not doing something. Sometimes we could possibly have done something so we come up with an excuse. Our excuse could be realistic, futuristic or unrealistic.

Excuses can be evidence of something much bigger sitting under the surface. A truthfulness issue, honesty issue, insecurity issue or even a knowledge issue. Each of these has and will cause us to fall short of our own expectation let alone the expectation of others.

Verse 17 they were already invited. They were already aware that a celebration, a party, a supper/dinner was going to happen and that the invitation was already issued. The dinner host expected them to be there.

They all gave excuses which all seem plausible. These excuses were vision/potential based.

Lots of people in life, say I'll get to it later. Many end up not enjoying either the party or the fulfilled vision. God wants to enjoy both.

Excuses are usually plausible. We can believe them. We can even trust them. The excuses are not the only point in question. Motive reveals lots of things.

- ◆ **They did not value the celebration.** They did not feel that the value of what they were invited to very highly. Thus they gave excuses. How hard it is for us when we don't feel like valuing something.

Our excuses, sounding reasonable but they are still excuses. **If you don't value the celebration or party your success will be minimized.**

The party in life is for connection. We are meant to have connection with people. The people we connect with are the very ones who help or hinder us from achieving our vision.

- ◆ **If value is an issue then don't make the commitment to something in the first place.**

When we give an oath, God expects us to keep it. Hard though it might be, oaths are meant to be kept.

If you don't give an oath to do something then your excuse should always be accepted even if it is feeble. We are not here to control people and demand of them we are here to inspire them to step out and do something.

Let's have a look at each of these excuses

- ◆ "I have brought a piece of ground." When we allow personal potential to override an oath we are heading for disaster.

Where vision exceeds you personal promise you will miss out on the party.

Ground speaks of potential, promise. God wants us to have that, but not at the expense of our words. When we give a promise we should keep it.

- ◆ "I have brought five yoke of oxen and I am going to test them."

Five yoke of oxen would take plenty of skill to use. When we allow personal gifting to be an excuse for something we loose the opportunity to party. Our personal gifting is for us and those around us. But to use them as a reason why we fail to meet commitments or fulfill pledges is wrong. When we say that I 'felt to do that' even when we have given our word to do something else our integrity gets questioned. 'I am not wired to be on time so I am always late.' Keeping your word is more important than walking in your gifting.

Where talent exceeds your word/promise we miss the party.

"I have married a wife, and therefore I can't come".

Just because we change our commitments, i.e. job, marriage, family doesn't mean we can opt out of our word. Nothing is more valuable than your word.

This person would have known about the dinner before their marriage. It is extremely unrighteous to plan something else when you have are already committed to doing something else.

The challenge here is not making excuses but keeping your word. Trustworthiness is one of the most valuable assets we have. If we keep our word we get to party.

What do we do if we think we have broken a promise?

1. Ask forgiveness
2. Ask either to be excused from the oath/pledge or ask if you can delay the fulfillment.
3. Be accountable to someone.

What if you are unable to fulfill a commitment before the deadline?

1. As soon as you know, communicate.
 - a. Bad news traveling quickly has less impact than bad news traveling slowly.
2. Ask to be released.

3. What if they wont release you or allow you to shift it.
4. Find someone who can help or support you through it.

Making vows/promises.

1. tread slowly
2. Get advice
3. Follow through with that advice

The party is part of life. If all we do is work, work, work we will become dull in life. Our work muscle needs to be strong but we also need to party a little.

Getting the right balance in life is not easy. Its is not obtained just through service, it requires sacrifice and selection. Work on your vision yes. Invest in your future by putting a little bit away each day. Put some away for the party yes. Partying all the time leads to laziness, working all the time leads to dullness. God doesn't want either.

Today is the day of opportunity. Opportunity to make steps to change your life so that you move with wisdom, the wisdom of God.

Wisdom to know when to party and when to work.