

I WILL FOLLOW YOU, BUT...

Luke 9:57-62

Introduction: It's amazing how man has remained the same through the centuries. As the Gospel also remains unchanged, so also has man's excuses, his objections for not following Jesus. Countless people have been interested in Jesus, their consciousness aroused, yet something in some way causes them to refuse to follow Jesus, just as the people did in Jesus' time.

I. EXCUSES PEOPLE MAKE TODAY FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS

1. My Job.

- I would be unable to live a godly life as I have to do things inconsistent with Christian living. If circumstances were different, then maybe...
- Trusting God for a job instead of one's self would remove that excuse.
- Wouldn't Heaven be more important than a job that kept one from following Jesus?
- Truth is that one doesn't really want to follow Jesus at all.

2. My Situation.

- Preachers have it easy. They're not out in the world where it's "tough."
- If my situation were different then I might follow Jesus.
- Truth is that one doesn't want to be identified with Christians and especially with Jesus.
- *"If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him..." "He that would save his life must lose it, but he that will lose his life for Christ's sake shall save it..."*

3. The Christian Way is too Hard.

- I'd have to give up too much I really enjoy if I were to follow Jesus.
- Heard about the harps of heaven, but prefers songs of Satan.
- Heard about heaven's streets of gold, but prefers the wide road of Satan.
- Heard about the joys of heaven but rather have what one can get down here.
- Truth is that one prefers what the world offers to the riches of Heaven.

4. I'm Beyond Help.

- I'm too trapped in my sins.
- My habits are too strong and I yield so easily and quickly.
- My faith is not strong enough and I'm just too unstable.
- Truth is that one doesn't really want to change. It's not "cannot" but "will not."

5. The Truth Behind Excuses.

- People are aware that there is a God, yet continue on as they are.
- They have felt the Holy Spirit's call, yet remain unyielding to Him.
- God has called, people have heard, yet have refused to follow Jesus.
- A great danger is that God may stop calling and just let one go on with his/her excuses.

II. THINGS THOSE WHO REFUSE TO FOLLOW JESUS DON'T REALLY KNOW

1. They have no true idea of what sin is.
 - Unaware that sin is like quicksand and if a helping hand is refused then death is certain.
 - Not aware of the tremendous evil of sin, it's destructiveness of both soul and body.
 - If one would only see what the Holy Spirit is trying to show then no more excuses.
2. They have no idea of how condemned they are in the eyes of God.
 - No idea of God's wrath hanging over them and that they are under God's curse.
 - One will gladly be rescued from a burning house once he/she realizes the house is burning.
 - Once a person realizes where he/she stands in God's eyes surely no more excuses.
3. They have never sensed the danger of imminent destruction.
 - Nobody knows when their life will end and most don't think about it, but it could happen at any moment.
 - God offers pardon and eternal life to all who would follow Jesus and leaving this world would be a joy not a fear as with those without Jesus shall experience.
4. They do know know of the wrath that is awaiting them from which there is no escape or relief.
 - God reveals some things about the place called Hell and it is filled with pain, agony, screams, distress, darkness, fire, prayers, regrets.
 - If one would only stop and consider seriously the place called Hell, then no more excuses.
5. They do not begin to know the glory of Jesus Christ.
 - Only those who follow Jesus down here will be allowed to see the full glory and majesty of Jesus Christ in Heaven.
 - Jesus is God in the flesh. How much glory does God have? Those who give excuses for not following Jesus will never know.

CONCLUSION:

1. *"...Lord, I will follow the, but...."* really means *"...Lord I won't..."*
2. The Gospel will not be changed to suit man's wants therefore each person must choose whether to follow Jesus or not on the conditions of the Gospel alone.
3. How can the world be better than what God offers? How can it be better to be without Jesus than to be with Him?
4. Countless people are already in Hell who were just like those of today who make excuses for not listening to the Holy Spirit and turning from the world to follow Jesus.
5. This very moment is the time to turn from the world and turn to following Jesus.