

ATTITUDES THAT HINDER OBEDIENCE

Lk 14:15-24

Introduction:

- A. If you have lived long enough to hear and understand you have likely heard an excuse or two or even made excuses yourself.
- B. People tend to make an excuse when scared to face something; when they don't know something; when they just don't want to change; or when they just don't like what you are offering.
- C. Excuses, in particular come up when we try to talk about the Bible with friends and co-workers.
 - 1. It seems like there are as many excuses as there are people.
 - 2. Many are very uncomfortable with the subject of God and religion.
 - 3. Someone said when speaking to another about religion, "An uncomfortable ear is always attached to an uncertain heart."
- D. Consider some excuses that are sometime offered so we can be better prepared to deal with them

DISCUSSION:

I. "I'M OKAY JUST THE WAY I AM!"

- A. Many have somehow twisted their thinking to believe God should accept them just the way they are.
 - 1. Even though they totally disregard His will in their lives.
 - 2. They are wrong in thinking they are okay: Jesus clearly stated you are either for God or against God Matt 12:30
- B. Individuals with this attitude need some very basic principals
 - 1. Namely, the reality of sin. Jas 1:13-15
 - a. God has delivered His will to man since creation: to Adam and Eve Gens 2:16-17; Law of Moses Heb 1:1; Law of Christ Heb 1:2
 - b. God holds all men accountable to Law of Christ Acts 17:30-31; Jhn 12:48; 2Cor 5:10
 - c. Because God has given us a law, we are accountable when we break that law (sin).
 - 2. Second, all have sinned Rom 3:23
 - a. Because we have sinned we died spiritually Jas 1:14-15
 - b. When we desire to do wrong and do it we sin and sin brings forth death.(spiritual death) Romans 6:23
 - 3. Then we need to share with them the fact that there is hope only in Christ Rom 5:8; Jhn 3:16
 - 4. Of course we understand "believe" means obedience.

II. "I'M UNACCEPTABLE TO GOD!"

- A. What a sad thing to think "I could not be accepted by God."
- B. Yet, they are right to a certain extent – God will not accept them in their current state. Isa 59:2; Rom 3:23
 - 1. Our sins have made us unacceptable to Him Rev 21:27
 - 2. Cannot expect God to accept us with our baggage of sins

- B. Our hope is in the fact that anyone can be made "acceptable" if they want to be.

- 1. Examples of sinners who turned to God:
 - a. Saul of Tarsus Acts 26:9-11; Acts 22:16; 1Tim 1:15
 - b. The Corinthian brethren 1Cor 6:9-11
- 2. We are made acceptable "In Christ" Eph 1:6-8

III. "GOD'S WAY IS IMPOSSIBLE!"

- A. There are many misconceptions concerning Christianity.
 - 1. Some think that it is too easy.
 - 2. Some think that it is way to hard even impossible.
- B. It is true that God's way is difficult. Jesus said, strait (difficult) is the way that leads to life" Matt 7:13-14
 - 1. It is difficult not impossible.
 - 2. God's expectations are reasonable Rom 12:1-2
 - a. We are offer our bodies as living sacrifices.
 - b. This means we give our bodies over to service for God Gal 5:24
 - c. We give up (don't do) things of the world 1Jhn 2:15-17
- C. Difficult, yes, but God has given us instruction in righteousness 2Tim 3:16-17
 - 1. God's will can be done Jas 1:23-25
 - 2. We must do His will if we want to be saved Matt 7:21-23
- D. Jesus said His yoke is easy and his burden light Matt 11:28-30

CONCLUSION:

- A. The more we try to talk to others about the gospel the more we will hear these kinds of excuses which demonstrate a hindering attitude.
 - 1. Sometimes those excuses will be slamming doors.
 - 2. Other will be doors of opportunity.
 - 3. We need to listen carefully for the cries for help.
- B. The attitude we all want to see is: "What Must I Do" Acts 16:30
 - 1. This is a rare but wonderful attitude to encounter..
 - 2. It is an open door to show someone the way.
 - 3. When a soul comes to the realization that they are lost and they are willing to do whatever God expects, it's not hard to show them the way of the Lord.
- C. We need to prepare for those occasions, through study and prayer.
- D. We cannot answer every attitude but we may be able to turn an attitude into a study and help someone obey the gospel.
- E. If you are not a Christian today are you going to make excuses or will you obey God today – you can become a Christian right now.

(Outline by T Sean Sullivan revised by JLH)