

OCTOBER 09, 2022 – CHRIS LINDBERG

## I'M GIVING UP EXCUSES

### Big Idea

What would you like to see different in your life? Chances are most of us would probably come up with a few different areas or things in our life that we would say I want to see different, and I don't know what that is for you, but I'm sure there's something you would like to improve or change in your life.

The problem is that when you decide to be different, your spiritual enemy will give you excuses to stay the same; he'll try to convince you that it is not worth the effort.

One day Jesus is telling this story. He said: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' "But they all alike began to **make excuses**." Luke 14:16-18 (NIV)

This is interesting; there was one guy who said: "I can't come to the party because I just bought a field," another person said: "I can't come to the party because I'm married," and another guy said: "I can't come because I just bought five yoke of oxen and I have to go try them out". The fact is that **when we make excuses, we rarely make a difference** and the reason why so many people come up with excuses is that we have good intentions instead of God's intentions. There's a massive difference between the two, so good intentions center around what you think is best for your life, and God's purposes center around what God thinks is best for your life.

### Scripture

- **Exodus 4:10-12 (NIV)**  
Moses said to the Lord, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." The Lord said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will **help you** speak and will **teach you** what to say
- **Jeremiah 32:26 (NIV)**  
God said to Jeremiah, **Is anything too hard for me?**
- **Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)**  
"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a **new thing!**

### Discussion Question

- What would you like to see different in your life?
- What does God want to be different about your life? Why does God want this to be different in your life?

### Prayer Focus

Father God, we ask that You help us all quit making excuses and focus on your purpose for our lives. We want to stop looking at our limited inabilities and look at Your unlimited abilities. We want to make a difference, and we will do what we can do and trust You to do what we cannot do. We love you. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen.

### Next Steps

- Read your bible daily and seek God's will for you. Understand that without Him, there's nothing you can do, and you will need to keep nurturing a relationship with Him throughout your journey.
- Be obedient. As you understand that God is guiding you to do something, do it and do it at the right time. Remember that delayed obedience is disobedience.

### Leader Tip

God wants us to improve in some areas, and it is time to give up giving excuses. Encourage people to seek Lord's purposes and the why behind them, knowing that when you connect the spiritual why with the what, the spiritual why will motivate you to accomplish the what.