**RISE UP** in 2021

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**I QUIT**

**Making Excuses – Exodus 3,4; Luke 14***:***12-24**



What does God want to be **different** about your life?

God has **His best** for you.

*For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*  Jeremiah 29:11

*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*  John 10:10b

We are slow to **admit** and quick to **justify**.

*But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”* Luke 10:29

Five common excuses:

1. Who am I?

*But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”*

Exodus 3:11

God’s promise: I will be with you.

And God said, “I will be with you.

Exodus 3:12

1. I do not know enough.

*Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”*

Exodus 3:13

God’s promise: I will inform you.

*God said to Moses, “I am who I am.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=exodus+3&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-1594c" \o "See footnote c)] This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”*

Exodus 3:14

1. People will not believe me.

*Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you’?”*

Exodus 4:1

God’s promise: I will empower you.

*This,” said the Lord, “is so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you.”*

*Exodus 4:5*

1. I am not talented enough.

*Moses said to the Lord, “Pardon your servant, 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.”* Exodus 4:10

God’s promise: I will help you.

*The Lord said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”*

Exodus 4:11

1. Someone else could do it better.

*But Moses said, “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.”*

Exodus 4:13

God’s Promise: I will use you.

*You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do.*  Exodus 4:15

As soon as you decide to be **different**, excuses come to stay the **same**.

Stop **settling** for second best (at best) ... and quit making **excuses**!

Take **action –** Just do it!

**Trust** God to do what you cannot do.

*But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

*2 Corinthians 12:9,10b*

Luke 14:15-24

*When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”*

*Jesus replied: “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. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’*

*“Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’*

*“Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’*

*“The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’*

*“‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’*

*“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”*