

## **Excuses that keep most people from following Jesus:**

### **1. Legalism over love vs 1-6**

<sup>1</sup>One Sabbath, when He went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching Him carefully. <sup>2</sup>And be-hold, there was a man before Him who had dropsy. <sup>3</sup>And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying: Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not? <sup>4</sup>But they remained silent. Then He took him and healed him and sent him away. <sup>5</sup>And He said to them: Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out? <sup>6</sup>And they could not reply to these things.

### **2. Honor over humility vs 7-11**

<sup>7</sup>Now He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, <sup>8</sup>When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, <sup>9</sup>and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. <sup>11</sup>For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

### **3. Greed over generosity vs 12-14**

<sup>12</sup>He said also to the man who had invited Him: When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup>and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.

### **4. Religious heritage over Responding to Jesus v15-24**

<sup>15</sup>When one of those who reclined at table with Him heard these things, he said to him: Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God! <sup>16</sup>But He said to him: A man

once gave a great banquet and invited many. <sup>17</sup>And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' <sup>18</sup>But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused. <sup>19</sup>And another said: I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused. <sup>20</sup>And another said: I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. <sup>21</sup>So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' <sup>22</sup>And the servant said: Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room. <sup>23</sup>And the master said to the servant: Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. <sup>24</sup>For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.

*His invitation is personal, have you heard His call? If we have, we will be following Him – not resisting*

<sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them: Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture... <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd...

<sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around Him and said to Him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered them: I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name bear witness about Me, <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe because you are not among My sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. **John 10:7-9; 14-16; 24-28**