

Pleasant Valley  
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon  
Wichita KS 67204  
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www.letjesusleadus.org

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Classes . . . . . 9:30 am  
Worship . . . . . 10:30 am  
Evening . . . . . 6:00 pm

### Wednesday

Classes . . . . . 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

# Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

January 24, 2010

## No excuses!

by David King

"A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses, . . ." (Lk. 14:16-18).

And all their excuses were quite valid. One had just acquired some land and needed to evaluate his new holding. Another had just purchased five yoke of oxen and had to try them out on the farm. Another had just gotten married — what could possibly be more important than his honeymoon?

All these men had their reasons for not coming to the feast. But whatever their reasons, the end result was the same: "None of those men who were invited shall taste my supper" (v. 24). The land, the oxen, and even the new wife would still be around, no matter what. But the opportunity to enjoy their friend's hospitality had passed — and would likely never come again.

There are three lessons this parable teaches us about the human art of making excuses.

First, every excuse seems valid to the one who offers it. There will always be a host of reasons why we cannot do something that is unpleasant, difficult, or troublesome.

Second, excuses are never insurmountable. If the excuse-maker really wanted to overcome the obstacle, he could find a way to do it. In reality, every excuse is just another way of saying, I'd rather not bother trying.

Finally, excuses always result in the same outcome: a lost opportunity to accomplish

something good. We avoid the hard work alright, but at the cost of a final reward.

Most people live out their lives in obscurity without accomplishing much that is meaningful. Behind every one of those wasted lives is a long history of making excuses. The problem is not that people **cannot** accomplish great things; it's that they allow fear, timidity, or self-doubt to keep them from **trying**. So their lives are spent running away from challenges.

A few people, on the other hand, seem destined to greatness. They achieve amazing results, sometimes with the most unlikely resources. The rest of us marvel at their ability to get things done. What is the secret to their success? In the vast majority of cases, these people have disciplined themselves not to make excuses when faced with hard tasks.

They do not necessarily possess greater intellect or skill. Instead, they have learned to meet every challenge with a fierce determination to overcome it, whatever the cost. They **will** succeed. **No excuses!**

When the path to their goal seems dark and foreboding, and others around them give up from the struggle, they lower their heads and press on. **No excuses!**

The next time you face a serious challenge in life, and a thousand reasons come to mind why you should turn around and walk away, think about this parable. What would happen if you looked the challenge straight in the eye, shouted "**No excuses!**", and charged in? You might be surprised what you could accomplish — and how easy it was to do it.