

THERE IS NO EXCUSE *For Our Excuses!*



(Luke 9:57-62)

Luke 9:57–62 (NKJV)

⁵⁷ Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, *that* someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.” ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head.” ⁵⁹ Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go *and* bid them farewell who are at my house.” ⁶² But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

THERE IS NO EXCUSE *For Our Excuses!*



The difference
between an
EXCUSE and a
REASON.

No excuse will be
acceptable for
NOT doing what
we ought to do, or
DOING what we
shouldn't!

THERE IS NO EXCUSE *For Our Excuses!*

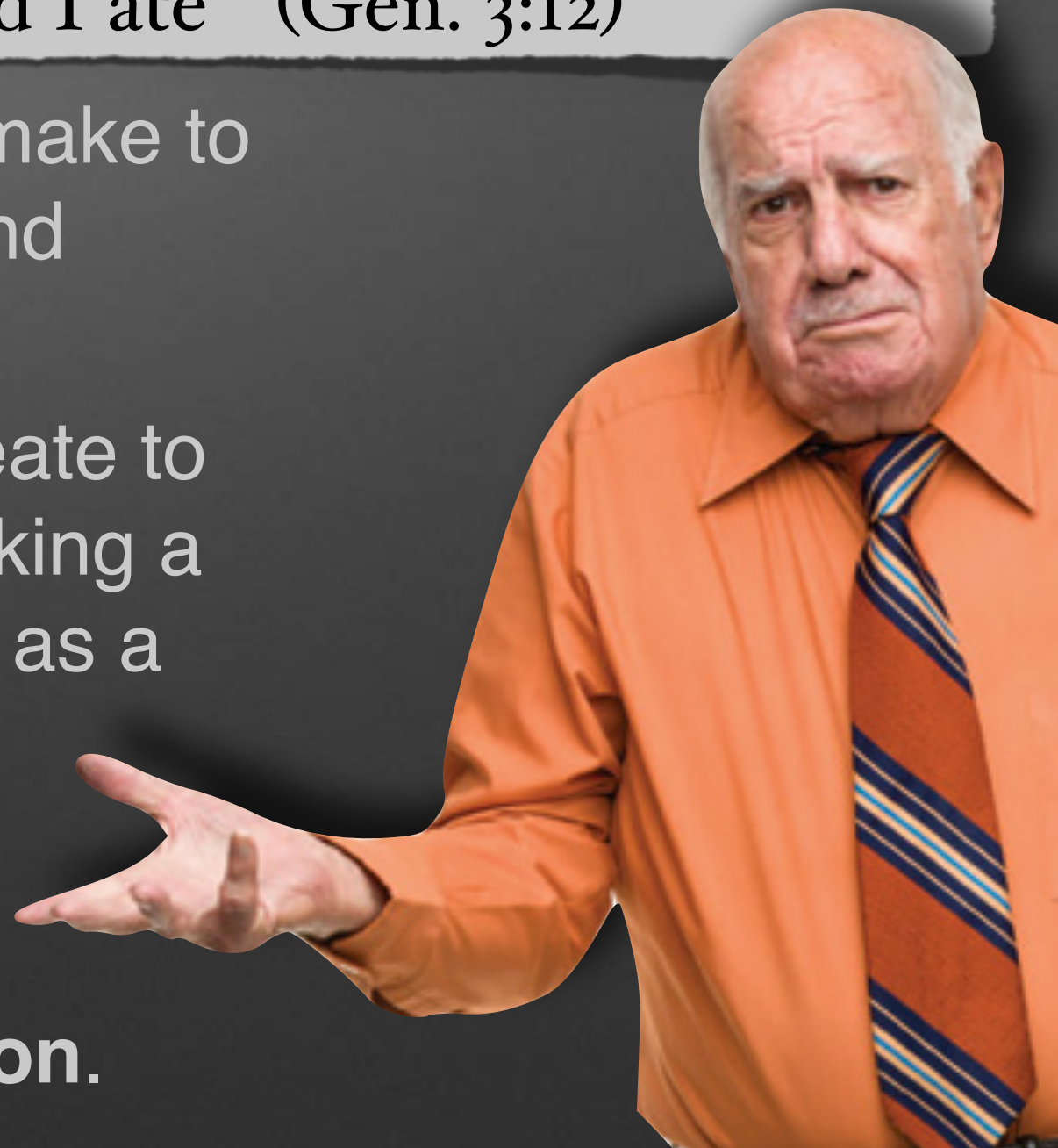
James 4:13–17 (NKJV)

¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; ¹⁴ whereas you do not know what *will* happen tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. ¹⁵ Instead you *ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

THERE IS NO EXCUSE *for Our Excuses!*

“Then the man said, ‘The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate’” (Gen. 3:12)

- **Excuses** are rationalizations we make to ourselves about people, events and circumstances.
- They are invented reasons we create to defend our behavior, to neglect taking a particular kind of action, or simply as a means of negating responsibility.
- Excuses are in essence a means of placing blame **OF** an **internal** problem **ON** an **external** condition.



THERE IS NO EXCUSE *for Our Excuses!*

The Reasons We Make Excuses

Matthew 25:24,25; Revelation 21:8

FEAR

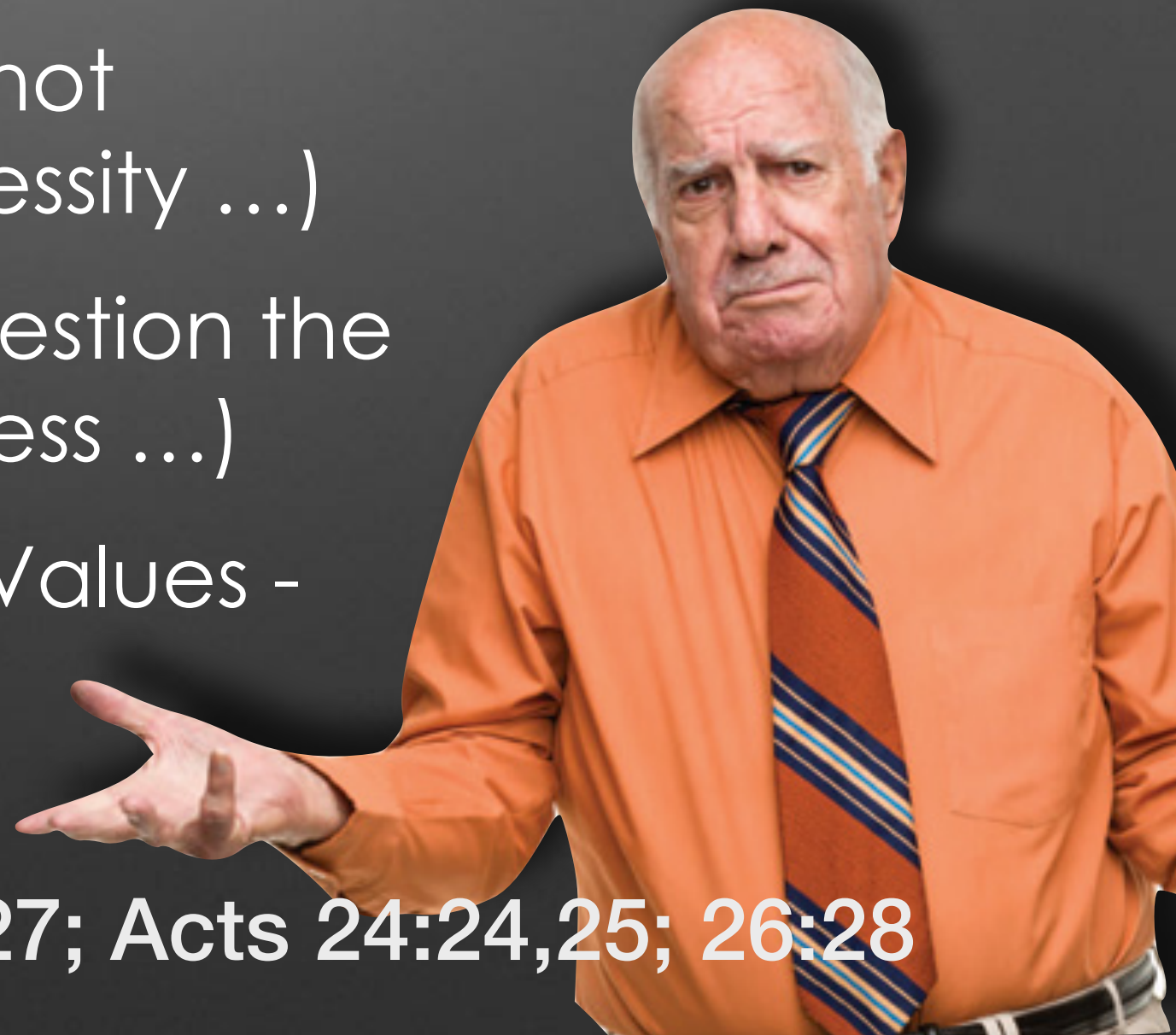
- Fear of Failure / Mistakes
- Fear of Embarrassment
- Fear of Success
- Fear of Change
- Fear of Uncertainty
- Fear of Responsibility



THERE IS NO EXCUSE *for Our Excuses!*

The Reasons We Make Excuses

- Short on conviction - (not convinced of the necessity ...)
- Lack confidence - (question the reliability or effectiveness ...)
- Misplaced priorities & Values - (not enough love ...)



Luke 14:16-24; 18:18-27; Acts 24:24,25; 26:28

THERE IS NO EXCUSE *for Our Excuses!*

The Reasons We Make Excuses



- "Who Am I?" Ex. 3:11
- "What Shall I Say?" Ex. 3:13
- "Suppose They Will Not Believe Me?" – Ex. 4:1
- "I Am Slow of Speech & Tongue" – Ex. 4:10
- "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else." – Ex. 4:13 (ESV)

THERE IS NO EXCUSE *for Our Excuses!*

The Reasons We Make Excuses

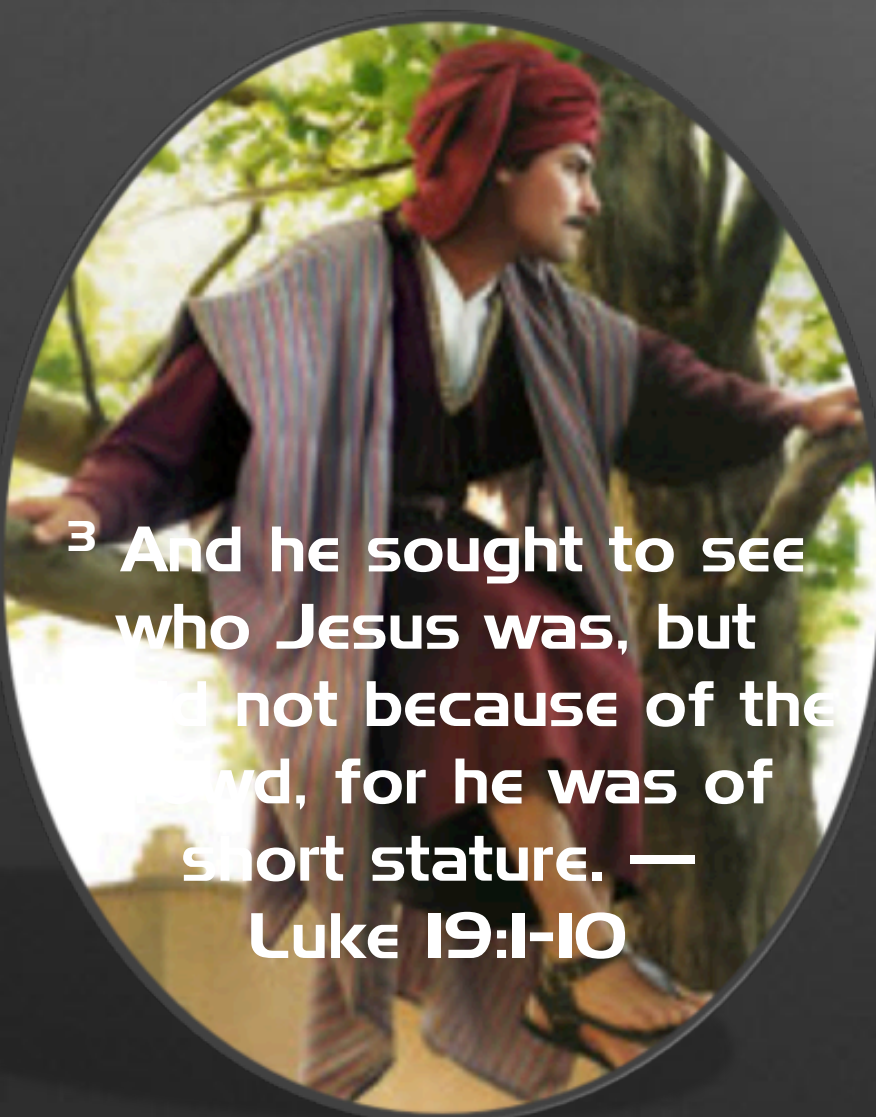


The REAL Problem Is A Matter of
The WILL - “We Do Not Want To!” -
(or at least we do not want to BAD ENOUGH!)

- John 7:17
- Romans 6:16-18
- 2 Timothy 4:9; 1 Jn 2:15-17
- James 4:6-10

THERE IS NO EXCUSE *for Our Excuses!*

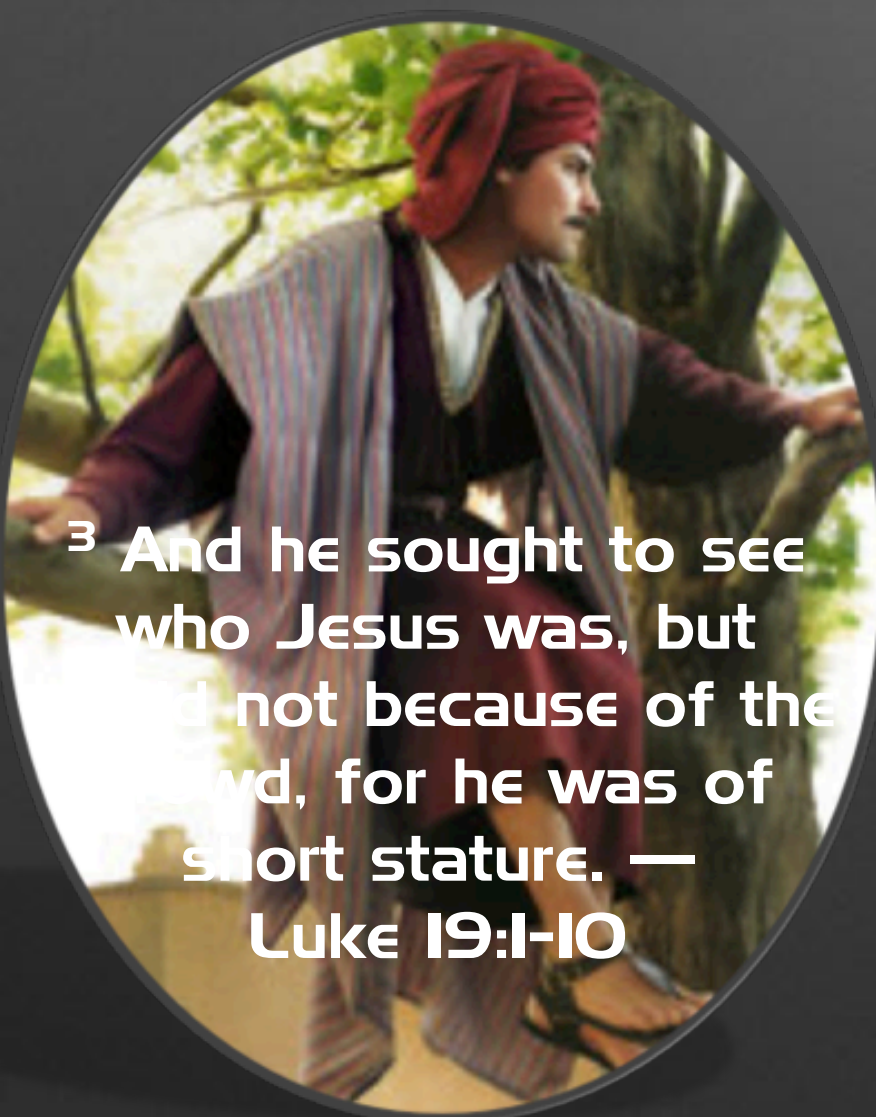
Do We REALLY WANT TO?



- “I want to go to heaven”
- “I want to be a godly person”
- “I want to know God’s word”
- “I want to be free from sinful attitudes”
- “I want to make better use of my time”
- “I want to help others”
- “I want a great marriage”
- “I want to be a great parent”
- “I want to teach others the gospel”

THERE IS NO EXCUSE *for Our Excuses!*

Do We REALLY WANT TO?



³ And he sought to see who Jesus was, but did not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. —
Luke 19:1-10

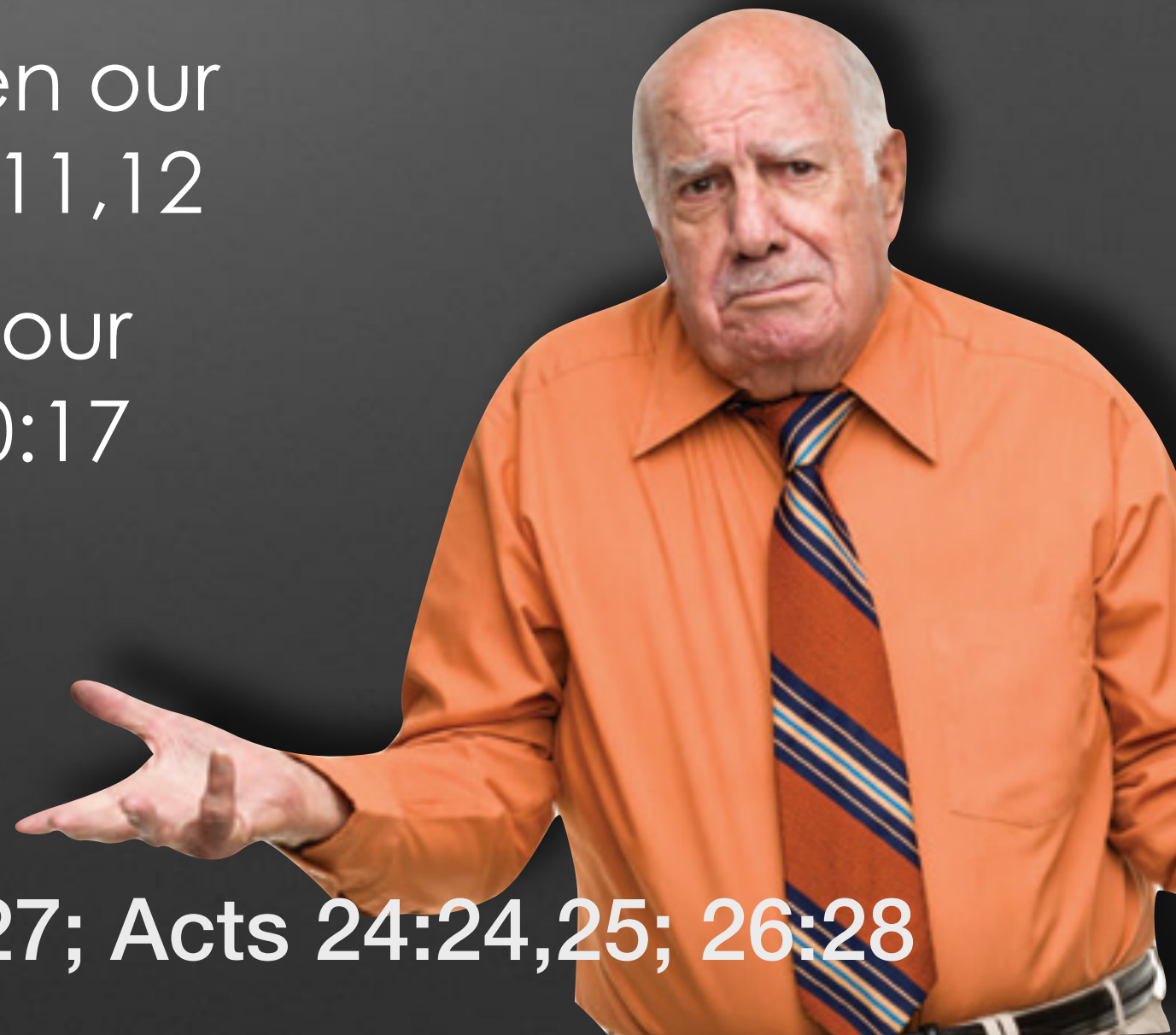
- Be Honest With Ourselves? - 2 Cor 13:5
- Change Our Attitudes & Thought Patterns? - Rom 12:1,2
- Develop Genuine Humility? - 1 Pet 5:6
- Develop A Loving Heart? - 1 Cor. 13:1-8
- Be Patient With Others? - 1 Thes 5:14
- Not Be Bitter & Resentful of Those Who Have Caused Us Pain? - Luke 17:3,4; Col. 3:12,13

THERE IS NO EXCUSE *for Our Excuses!*

Stop Making Excuses

- How can we strengthen our convictions? - Acts 17:11,12
- How can we increase our confidence? - Rom. 10:17
- Where have YOU placed your values & Priorities? - Col. 3:1,2

Luke 14:16-24; 18:18-27; Acts 24:24,25; 26:28

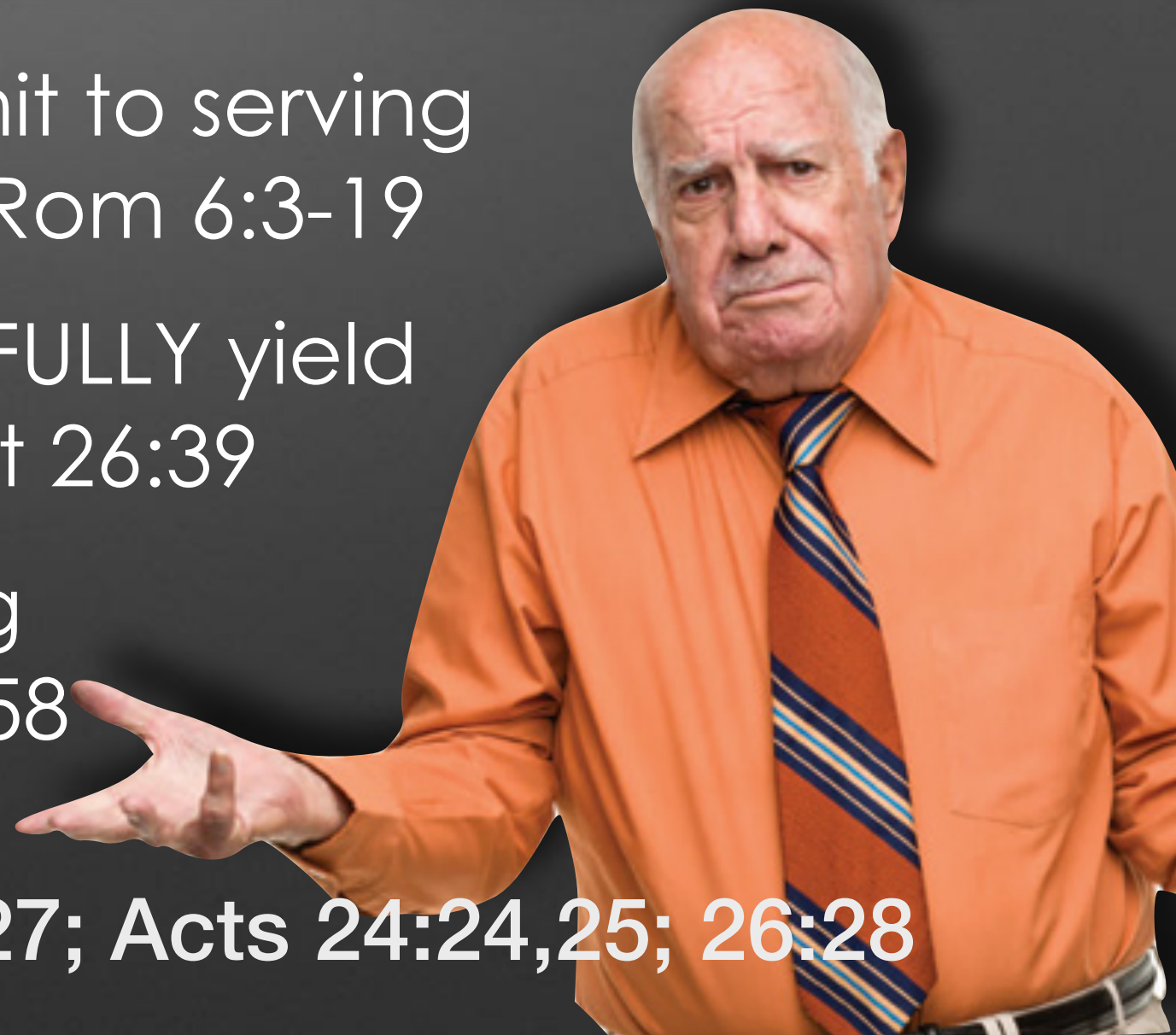


THERE IS NO EXCUSE *for Our Excuses!*

Stop Making Excuses

- Initial decision - Commit to serving the Lord - Josh. 24:15; Rom 6:3-19
- Complete surrender - FULLY yield your will to God's - Mat 26:39
- Perseverance - Staying the course - 1 Cor. 15:58

Luke 14:16-24; 18:18-27; Acts 24:24,25; 26:28



THERE IS NO EXCUSE *for Our Excuses!*

Choose This Day Whom You Will Serve



- Obey the gospel - Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Continue to obey - 1 John 1:6-9
- Assemble regularly for Bible study & worship - Heb 10:24,25
- Serve where capable / GROW - Rom 12:1-8; 2 Pet 1:5-11
- Faithful living - Eph 5:1-6:9
- Resist temptation / break free from sin - Gen 39:7-13; Dan. 1:8; Eph 6:10-18

THERE IS NO EXCUSE *for Our Excuses!*

Choose This Day Whom You Will Serve

**IF IT IS IMPORTANT
TO YOU, YOU WILL
FIND A WAY.**

**IF NOT,
YOU'LL FIND
AN EXCUSE**

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

I can do all things through Christ who
strengthens me.

THERE IS NO EXCUSE *for Our Excuses!*

Choose This Day Whom You Will Serve

**IF IT IS IMPORTANT
TO YOU, YOU WILL
FIND A WAY.**

**IF NOT,
YOU'LL FIND
AN EXCUSE**

I Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

THERE IS NO EXCUSE *For Our Excuses!*



Charts by Don McClain

(Luke 9:57-62)

Prepared June 1-3, 2017 – Preached June 4, 2017

West 65th Street church of Christ P.O. Box 190062, Little Rock AR 72219 / 501-568-1062

Prepared using Keynote

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

<http://w65stchurchofchrist.org/coc/sermons/>

HEBREWS 12:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

HEBREWS 12:1-4 (NKJV)

³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. ⁴ You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.