**CONFRONTING COMMON EXCUSES**

**LESSON 1 – AUGUST 17, 2025**

It’s Not My Fault.

**Key Verse(s):** Genesis 3:12-13 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. 13 And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

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**Summary of the Biblical Event**

After Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, their eyes were opened, and they realized their guilt and shame. When God confronted Adam, instead of owning his sin, Adam chose to give an excuse. In one statement, Adam blamed both God and Eve. From his perspective, it wasn’t his fault. It was that woman God had given him. Subsequently, when Eve was questioned by God, she blamed it on the serpent. Instead of confessing, both tried to excuse their disobedience by pointing to someone else. Clearly, they were both responsible, and they would mutually face the consequences for their actions. This story is the beginning of humanity’s long history of making excuses rather than taking responsibility for sin.



 **Examining the Motives Exposing the Flaws**

* Acknowledging truth is not the same as confessing an error.
* Deflection never cancels out our decisions or our guilt.
* Questioning God’s goodness separates us more from Him.
* Bad behavior from others is never a valid reason for our sin.
* Being deceived only highlights our lack of trust in God’s Word.
* They were able to hide the excuse in truth.
* They were hoping to push blame off of themselves.
* Adam attempted to cast the responsibility back on God.
* Adam directed the attention toward another guilty party.
* Eve tried to remove herself from the decision making.

**Effects of the Excuse**

**1. Prevents personal growth and God’s grace because repentance doesn’t occur.**

**Proverbs 28:13** — He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

**2. Damages relationships because of the need to expose and shift blame to others.**

**Proverbs 17:9** — He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.

**3. Creates an inevitable cycle of repeated failure because of no accountability.**

**Proverbs 26:11** — As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

**4. Causes a defeated and bitter spirit because “everybody else” is the problem.**

**Hebrews 12:15** — Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.



PERSONAL APPLICATION

**Memory Verse:** Romans 14:12 - So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

**Reflective Questions:**

* Is there an area of my life where I am trying to ignore personal accountability?
* Is there a relationship I’ve hurt because I was trying to avoid my own responsibility?

**Commitment:**

* I will remember when things happen that I can only control my own decisions.
* I will allow others to keep me accountable for the decision that I make.

What would repentance have looked like for Adam and Eve instead of the answers that they gave?

What are the major reasons why people are so quick to shift blame rather than admit fault?

What are some present day examples of how this excuse is used without being directly said by individuals?

What was the Lord’s answer to the excuses that Adam and Eve made?