**CONFRONTING COMMON EXCUSES**

**LESSON 13 – November 23, 2025**

“It’s Just Not Fair!”

**Key Verse(s):** Luke 15:28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. 29 And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: 30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

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**Summary of the Biblical Event**

In the parable of the prodigal son, the older brother had remained at home, laboring in his father’s fields while his younger brother wasted his inheritance in sin and shame. When the prodigal finally returned, broken and repentant, the father welcomed him with compassion and restored him with a feast. Instead of rejoicing, the older brother reacted in anger and refused to enter the celebration. Hearing the music and gladness, he confronted his father with bitterness, insisting that his years of service and obedience had earned him something better. He highlighted his own faithfulness and pointed out his brother’s failures, revealing the jealousy and entitlement brewing within his heart. While the father pleaded with him gently, reminding him of his constant presence and abundant inheritance, the older brother still stood outside, blinded by comparison and resentment. His refusal to join the feast exposed how ungrateful he was. He believed that the entire situation was unfair and that he was being mistreated, especially compared to his brother. Many people moan and complain and fail to do God’s will because they believe that they’ve been treated unfairly.

 **Examining the Motives Exposing the Flaws**

* He believed that he had been mistreated for a long time.
* He compared the way he had been treated vs. his brother.
* He did not quit his job. He just wouldn’t rejoice with others.
* He questioned whether all of his work had even been worth it.
* He refused to go in as a way to get his father’s attention.
* He failed to see the provisions that he had been given.
* He wrongly thought that the two events were comparable.
* He was still being disobedient to the commands of his father.
* He had a wrong idea on what the purpose of his labor was.
* The attention he received had to be the chastening type.

**1. It prevents us from having a spirit of thanksgiving.**

**Effects of the Excuse**

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** – “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

**2. It blinds us to the grace that God has shown us and causes us to become bitter.**

**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.”

**3. It leads us to envy and an even greater position of frustration and fruitlessness.**

**James 3:16** “For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.” **Proverbs 14:30** “A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.”

**4. It creates an unrealistic standard that can never be reached in this sinful world.**

**John 16:33** - “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”



PERSONAL APPLICATION

**Memory Verse:** Luke 15:31 “And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.”

**Reflective Questions:**

* Have I convinced myself that God has been unfair or unjust toward me?
* Do I use the excuse of unfairness because I am too busy comparing things to others?

**Commitment:**

* I will not let an unfair world keep me from serving my loving, kind, and just God.
* I will rejoice when others have victories.

What response to the prodigal do you think the older brother wanted? Why?

What does the father’s response tell us about the older brother’s views?

Do you think that the older brother had a somewhat reasonable argument?

Why does perceived unfairness cause us to want to quit or to be frustrated?

What is the safest approach to life that will keep us from using this excuse?