**CONFRONTING COMMON EXCUSES**

**LESSON 15 – December 7, 2025**

“I’ve Done Everything I Can.”

**Key Verse(s):** Luke 18:18 “And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? 19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God. 20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. 21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.”

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**Summary of the Biblical Event**

There was a young man of great wealth and authority who approached Jesus after our Lord had just finished teaching on the subject of self-righteousness. This man wanted to know what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. He was likely confused after hearing the message that the Lord had given about the publican and the Pharisee. Certainly, he felt like he had done more than enough in his life to be justified before God. As the Lord spoke to him about the Law, the man confidently answered that he had kept all those things from his youth up. He had convinced himself that he had done everything he could possibly do. Of course, the Lord knows our hearts, and He knew exactly what response would reveal the truth to us and to this man. He challenged him to sell all that he had and to give it to the poor and to follow Christ. The man was very sorrowful upon hearing the Lord’s answer. It exposed his thinking and the excuse he was using to justify himself, and it was meant to show him that none of us can do enough to earn our salvation. Like this certain ruler, we often use this same excuse that we have already done everything we can.

 **Examining the Motives Exposing the Flaws**

* He thought that he could hide behind the external.
* In his mind, he had done all the major things expected of him.
* He was hoping that the Lord would accept his answer.
* Perhaps, he thought his status would prevent further work.
* He was being asked to do more than others were being asked.
* The Lord always see the inside and knows our thoughts.
* Obedience to the Lord means that we obey big and small.
* There is no excuse that will work before the Lord God.
* There are no status positions in the labor for the Lord.
* The Lord desires and requires surrender from all His children.

**1. It causes us to overestimate our own righteousness and standing before God.**

**Effects of the Excuse**

**Proverbs 20:6** – “Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find? **7** The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.”

**2. It produces greater attachment toward that which we are holding back from God.**

**Matthew 6:20-21** — “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

**3. We become increasingly reluctant to truly surrender ourselves and our service to God.**

**Luke 9:23** “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

**4. We become resentful toward the good work being done by others.**

**I John 3:12** —“Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother’s righteous.”



PERSONAL APPLICATION

**Memory Verse:** Proverbs 21:2 - “Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.”

**Reflective Questions:**

* Am I wrongly evaluating myself and being deceived about my own efforts?
* Is there something specific I know I should be doing right now but am holding back?

**Commitment:**

* I will remember that there is always more that I can do in the work of God.
* I will be diligent and fully surrendered..

Do you think that this ruler ever came around to following Jesus Christ?

Why didn’t Christ more clearly confront this man’s misconceptions about sin?

What did this man expect to be the Lord’s answer to his question?

What do the disciples answers reveal about the struggle with this excuse?

What is the main motive of this excuse? Laziness, unwillingness, deception?