**CONFRONTING COMMON EXCUSES**

**LESSON 18 – DECEMBER 28, 2025**

It’ll Be Different Next Time.

**Key Verse(s):** Exodus 9:27-28 “And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned this time: the Lord is righteous, and I and my people are wicked. 28 Intreat the Lord (for it is enough) that there be no more mighty thunderings and hail; and I will let you go, and ye shall stay no longer.”

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**Summary of the Biblical Event**

Ironically, we are ending this lesson series where the last one began – in Egypt. Pharaoh ruled Egypt during the time when the children of Israel had been enslaved there for generations. God sent Moses to confront Pharaoh with a clear message: “Let My people go.” When Pharaoh refused, the Lord brought a series of plagues upon Egypt to reveal His power and compel Pharaoh to release Israel. Each plague brought increased suffering. Under pressure, Pharaoh repeatedly softened, admitted wrongdoing, and promised obedience. He pleaded with Moses to ask God to remove the judgment. Yet, each time the plague was lifted and relief came, Pharaoh hardened his heart and returned to rebellion, refusing to submit to God’s command. He wanted freedom from the plagues, but he did not want true repentance or surrender to the Lord. In the end, he never truly changed, and his stubbornness and disobedience brought judgment on Egypt.

 **Examining the Motives Exposing the Flaws**

* Without change, the results will always lead to same end.
* God is never fooled by our empty promises or words.
* Pride leads us to think that we will get more chances.
* Sadly, sorrow does not yield repentance automatically.
* Moving the goals does not change God’s expectations.
* He wanted the consequences to stop without real change.
* He hoped temporary promises would appease authority.
* He believed he would be given more opportunities to change.
* In his sorrowful state, he really thought he would change.
* He gradually shifted position to make himself feel better.

**Effects of the Excuse**

**1. It may lead us to delay from immediate obedience to the Lord.**

**James 4:17** — Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

**2. It may cause us to ignore the real reasons why failure occurred to begin with.**

**Proverbs 12:15** — The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

**3. It puts the emphasis on affecting outward results instead of true heart change.**

**Psalm 51:17** - The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

**4. It keeps us working from a reactive standpoint instead of a proactive one.**

**Proverbs 22:3** - A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.



PERSONAL APPLICATION

**2 Corinthians 7:10** For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

**Reflective Questions:**

* What failure continues to loop in my life without real change happening?
* How many times have I used this excuse without a difference actually occurring?

**Commitment:**

* I will not delay making right decisions. I will take necessary steps of obedience today.
* I will truly examine why I’ve failed and seek to make real changes and be proactive.

Why do you think Pharaoh went back on his word so quickly each time?

What did Pharaoh think would happen when he rebelled each time?

Why do patterns of sin so often repeat, even with promises being made?

How do we break the cycle of this excuse and bring about real change?

What does Pharaoh’s story tell us about human nature & change?