



Chinese New Year: Excuse Me

Moving Beyond Flimsy Excuses

By Brett Hilliard, February 06, 2022

As they were walking along the road, a man said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head." He said to another man, "Follow Me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the Kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the Kingdom of God."

Luke 9:57-62 (NIV)

His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. "Master," he said, "I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you." His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 25:23-30 (NIV)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is one excuse that you've told yourself (and others) that you need to retire?
2. How does fear manipulate you to create excuses for your lack of all-out following of Jesus?