



False Excuses: Shifting the Blame

MAIN THING

Those Who Are Good At Making Excuses Are Rarely Good At Anything Else

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 3:1-19

ICEBREAKER

As kids, we've all come up with lame excuses for things we've done. What are some of the most outlandish that you've said or heard?

OPENING THOUGHT

No one wants to get in trouble or get caught doing something we shouldn't be doing. Many times, we try to rationalize what we've done to reconcile it within ourselves that it's ok. More often than not, we like to blame someone or something else when we have shortcomings. I'm overweight, because my wife makes too much food. I can't volunteer in church, because my kids have me too busy. I can't go out for a run, because it's raining all the time...or it's too hot...or it's too cold. You get the point. In our discussion, we're going to talk about the danger of shifting the blame and not owning up to our own behavior and decisions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. Read Genesis 3:1-19. What do you notice about the behavior of both Adam and Eve? Is that something that you've done before? Has this caused friction in relationships when you place the blame on another person?
3. Why do we struggle with accepting the consequences/blame for our actions? What is it that triggers this reaction? Is it ok to not be perfect?

LIFE APPLICATION

When Christ saves us, when He redeems us, He gives us a new heart that feels no need to rationalize or make excuses for sin. We need to own it, repent of it, and be cleansed of it. How do we get to the point where that's how we handle sin? What are you dealing with now that you need to own, repent and be cleansed of?

CHALLENGE

Encourage each other as you work through this. The most important thing a community can offer each other is encouragement and accountability. Hold each other to the practice of owning, repenting, and being cleansed of your sin. Also, be willing to be held to that standard. Genuine community is an amazing thing, and genuine community that spurs each other on to live out the fruit of the Spirit is priceless.