

## Making Excuses

The parables in the Word can help everyone learn how to approach the Lord. In the parable of the great supper, three of the guests make excuses not to come. Think about comparable excuses one might give for not attending church or reading the Word. Write these in the chart.

<b>Excuses One Might Give for Not Attending Church or Reading the Word</b>
<p>“I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused” (Luke 14:18).  <i>I have bought into some false idea, and I am trying to understand it.</i></p>
<p>“I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused” (Luke 14:19).  <i>I don't want to hear what the Word teaches because it goes against what I am feeling.</i></p>
<p>“I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come” (Luke 14:20).  <i>I have confirmed (or married myself to) doing things that are focused on selfish and worldly goals.</i></p>

Now consider the guests that the master told the servant to bring to the supper. How can we work on being receptive of the Lord’s help in the ways that these guests picture spiritually?

<b>Qualities of “Willing Guests”</b>	
<p><b>Poor</b> (humble, want to be instructed)</p>	<p><b>Maimed</b> (want guidance to make wise choices)</p>
<p><b>Lame</b> (recognize problems holding them back)</p>	<p><b>Blind</b> (unable to see clearly without the Lord’s help)</p>

“Come, for all things are now ready” (Luke 14:17).