

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XIX

January 10, 2010

No. 2

## Excuses Anger God

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**H**ave you ever “begged off” from doing something which another wanted you to do? We may have our “reason” for declining, but the one counting on us may see the backing out as a mere “excuse”. Have you ever stopped to think how our desire to be excused affects others? Surely, they will be gracious and understand. Or, it will not matter to them in the long run if I show up or not.

When we examine God’s demands upon us, we need to remember that God is not indifferent to our “begging off” from our responsibilities.

Moses was God’s chosen vessel to lead his people from Egyptian captivity. As Moses asks questions regarding his commission, God takes away his excuses. Moses says “*Who am I*” and God answers, “*I will be with thee;*” (Exodus 3:11-12). Moses says “*What is His name?*” God reminds him that the Self—Existent and Eternal “*I Am*” is His name (Exodus 3:13-14). Moses then proposes the depressing thought that the people will say, “*Jehovah hath not appeared unto thee.*” God directs Moses to

the rod in his hands which will be the instrument for Moses to confirm with miraculous signs that Jehovah is with Moses (Exodus 4:1-9). Moses then says, “*I am not eloquent.*” God reminds him that the one who is speaking to him is the one who made man’s mouth, and again assures Moses that He will be with him (Exodus 4:10-12). No doubt feeling the desperation of not being let off the hook, Moses curtly responds with “grudging acquiescence” and says, “*Oh Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send*” (Exodus 4:13). How did God react to Moses’ “reasons”? The inspired record reads, “*And the anger of Jehovah was kindled against Moses*” (Exodus 4:13).

A humble and overwhelmed spirit may have fostered Moses’ many questions, but God apparently sees them as excuses for not trusting in Him. Aaron will be the efficient speaker for Moses’ lack of eloquence, but Moses is not excused from his responsibility to lead God’s people out of captivity.

We, as faithful followers of Christ, have the responsibility to teach others the saving gospel of Christ (2 Timothy 2:2). As we begin a fresh new year, how are we

responding to this responsibility before God?

Do we say, “Who am I?” or, “I am not eloquent”? God has given us time to be teachers, and with the inspired scriptures, has equipped us with all the needed information to teach one what to do to be saved (Hebrews 5:12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Even if we do not think we have the skills, we probably have someone near us, as Moses had Aaron, whom we can contact to help us in the glorious work of saving souls.

Do we inwardly grumble at such exhortation, and like Moses grudgingly respond, “God, if you are going to be so persistent, send whom you will”? God does not ignore such a response. It angers Him!

When we turn down the Lord’s invitation with reasons to be excused, the Lord does not act indifferently, but is “angry” (Luke 14: 15-24). The next time we try to beg off the Lord’s invitation, or His call to duty, may we remember that God does not take our excuses lightly.