

Excuses, Excuses  
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There was a husband who made two terrible mistakes in one day. First, he forgot his wife's birthday. Then he tried to cover his oversight without thinking through the consequences of his excuse. He said, "Honey, I just want you to know I didn't forget your birthday, I just didn't get you anything."

Excuses. Scripture shows that they are as old as humanity. You heard the story from Genesis chapter 3. Adam ate the forbidden fruit. When confronted about it, Adam came up with an excuse: "The woman whom you gave to be with me gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Eve? What about it? "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." Uh-huh. And humanity has continued with ridiculous excuses ever since.

Someone once shared the ten best excuses to give if you get caught sleeping at your desk:

- #10. "They told me at the blood bank this might happen."
- #9. "This is just a 15 minute power-nap like they raved about in that time management course you sent me to."
- #8. "Whew! Guess I left the top off the White-Out. You got here just in time!"
- #7. "I wasn't sleeping! I was meditating on the mission statement and envisioning a new paradigm."
- #6. "I was testing my keyboard for drool resistance."
- #5. "I was doing a highly specific Yoga exercise to relieve work-related stress. Are you discriminatory toward people who practice Yoga?"
- #4. "Darn! Why did you interrupt me? I had almost figured out a solution to our biggest problem."
- #3. "The coffee machine is broken."
- #2. "Someone must've put decaf in the wrong pot."

And the #1 best thing to say if you get caught sleeping at your desk, "...in His name. Amen."

Excuses, excuses, you'll hear them everyday. Now the devil, he'll supply them if away from church you'll stay. When people come to know the Lord, the devil always loses. So to keep them folks away from church, he offers them excuses.

We are currently in the season of Lent, a time of the church year during which we are called to introspection, self-examination, and repentance as we head toward the Easter event. The season of Lent gives us an incentive, an excuse if you like, to make the changes in our lives that we know we need to make.

If there are changes that need to be made in your relationship with the Lord or with His church, make the changes. If there are changes that need to be made in your relationships with family and friends, make them. If there are changes that need to be made in your business affairs and the way you handle them, make no excuses; make the changes.

The season of Lent is "an excuse to be better." By the grace of God, we can make these weeks in Lent an excuse to become better being what God wants us to be.