



## Part Two: Not Buying It // Andy Stanley // May 29, 2022

Whether fueled by fear, insecurity, or a past event, many of us construct a paper wall of excuses that holds us back.

**Scripture:** [Luke 9:59-62 NIV](#); [Matthew 25:14-30 NIV](#)

**Bottom Line:** God loves you just the way you are, but he loves you too much to leave you that way.

### Discuss:

1. What common excuses come to mind in these scenarios? They could be ones you have used or heard, or maybe you have some humorous excuses that would finish these sentences well:
  - I was running late because...
  - I didn't do my homework because...
  - I would have applied for that job, but...
  - I meant to clean that, but...
  - I was going to say something in the meeting, but...
  - I don't exercise much because...
  - My spouse and I haven't done a date night in a while because...
2. Do you know anyone who excuses behaviours that hurt the people they claim to care most about? How so?
3. Andy said, "Our because's aren't always *the* causes." What did he mean?
4. When was the last time someone accused you of making excuses? What was your response then? How might you answer differently next time?
5. Look at [Luke 9:59-62](#). What were the men's "reasons" for delaying following Jesus? How did he interact with them? What does this reflect about his nature? How might Jesus respond to your "reasons"?

6. Read Jesus' parable from [Matthew 25:14-30](#). What stands out to you from this story? Why do you think Jesus would use such harsh consequences as the illustration for the third servant in verses 26-30?
7. Andy said, "If you're going to fear something, fear missing out on who you could be and should be—and what you could do and should do for the people and the world around you." What is your reaction to this?
8. Any paper walls come to mind during the message? If so, what fear is at the root of that paper wall? How can you overcome this?