

12/21/2025

"Being Involved in His Story"

MATTHEW 1:18-25; 2:1
LUKE 1:5-7, 27
LUKE 2:4-5, 8

New Sermon Series coming up:

Proverbs 13:12

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

- ▶ We've all heard the term, "I can't...!"
- ▶ Now this phrase is usually followed by an excuse...
- ▶ There may be good reason for "I can't."
- ▶ Many times, the follow up excuses are really lies!
- ▶ People can always make excuses – for not doing what they *know* they should!

I Wonder Have I Done My Best for Jesus?

1 I wonder, have I done my best for Jesus, Who died upon the cruel tree?

To think of His great sacrifice at Calv'ry! I know my Lord expects the best from me.

Refrain:

How many are the lost that I have lifted? How many are the chained I've helped to free?

I wonder, have I done my best for Jesus, When He has done so much for me?

2 The hours that I have wasted are so many, The hours I've spent for Christ so few;

Because of all my lack of love for Jesus, I wonder if His heart is breaking too.

[Refrain]

Words: Ensign Edwin Young Music: Harry E. Storrs

In this Christmas season:

- ▶ As our hearts and minds focus on Jesus,
- ▶ His incarnation, His growth, His life, His ministry, His death.
- ▶ We often focus on the *characters* of the story, and appropriately so...
- ▶ But then I had this thought:
- ▶ What if they had made excuses like us...

This morning:

- ▶ I want us to look at the excuses –
- ▶ That we know they could have given.
- ▶ For not doing, for not being used of God.
- ▶ We are clearly shown how these heroes are used:
- ▶ It was *people* who would bring about this miracle! [*Think about that!!*]

Look at **Matthew 1:18**: [In the Greek:]

"birth of Jesus was on this wise" KJV "οὕτως εἶπ" literally: "thus was" this is how it happened, *equals* = people!

No doubt it happened.

Same word used in **John 3:16** "thus was – God's love" "for God so loved..."

Over

Let's look at 6 characters and their possible excuses:

They *could* have given - For not serving:

I. Zacharius & Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-7)

- A. Too old
- B. Physical limitations

II. Mary (Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:27; 2:4-5)

- A. Too young
- B. But was humble and willing – certainly not self-confident (Luke 1:38)

I Don't Have to Wait Until I'm Grown Up

Words & Music by Harry Dixon Loes

1. I don't have to wait until I'm grown up to be loving and true.

There are many little deeds of kindness that each day I can do.

I can read my Bible and pray; be a loving helper always.

I don't have to wait until I'm grown up

to be what Jesus wants me to be.

2. If I'm old enough to love my parents I can know Jesus' love.

I can learn to trust Him and obey Him for He watches above.

III. Joseph (Matthew 1:18ff)

- A. Too self-conscious
- B. Worried about what people think

IV. The Wise Men (Matthew 2:1)

- A. Too educated, too busy, too rich
- B. They were wise men from the east
Used their education (study of the stars) to bring them to God.

V. The Shepherds (Luke 2:8-18)

- A. Too lowly
- B. Too scandalous
But God used them to spread the word!

VI. A baby (Luke 2:7, 27-32)

- (or using baby as excuse)
- A. Too helpless – to be used
- B. Too weak

CONCLUSION:

- These people could have been too _____.
- **What's your excuse** for not being part of His story?
- What's your problem?
- Here's the truth, God can take every excuse...
- "God doesn't want your ability, He wants your availability!" – David Ring



Evangelist David Ring
<https://youtu.be/tDQ6EX4W0rM>