

The Excuses We Make

Zig Ziglar, author and internationally known inspirational speaker, tells the story of the fellow who went next door to borrow his neighbor's lawnmower. The neighbor explained that he could not let him use the lawnmower because all the flights had been canceled from New York to Los Angeles. The borrower asked him what canceled flights from New York to Los Angeles had to do with borrowing his lawnmower.

"It doesn't have anything to do with it, but if I don't want to let you use my lawnmower, one excuse is as good as another," the neighbor replied.

The neighbor, of course, was absolutely right. One excuse is as good as another, Ziglar said, "because an excuse, in most cases, is nothing but a denial or refusal to accept responsibility."

George Washington Carver believed that 99 percent of failures come from people who have a habit of making excuses. Author Harold Sherman said, "It's mighty soothing to the ego to be able to alibi our failures. I've done it, you've done it, and it has seemed to help temporarily. But the alibis have proved costly in the long run, because they've kept us from facing the truth about ourselves. They have kept us from going to work and correcting our mistakes, eliminating our weaknesses, developing our talents, improving our character."

And finally, Sherman said, "Don't make excuses, make good."

These little instructional gems "are invaluable," Ziglar added, "and should force each of us to think."

So the watchword for us today in the work of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home is: "Don't make excuses, make good."

– Beecher Hunter