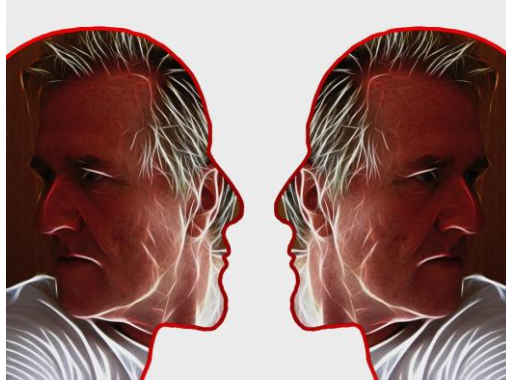


# TO JUSTIFY MYSELF?



*“Heavy traffic!”*

*“I forgot!”*

*“Nobody told me!”*

*“I didn’t know it was you.”*

*“You misunderstood what I said.”*

We do it all the time.

We come up with wonderful reasons for...

Why we didn’t get there on time...

Why George is still licking his wounds from the things we said...

Why no one has checked on old Aunt Maud...

Soon we believe our little “justification lies”.

Even worse, we tell them to God.

*“Lord, I didn’t realize.”*

*“Lord, I thought I was doing the right thing.”*

*“I figured he was a moocher.”*

*“I was in a hurry, Lord. I didn’t even notice those little ones crying.”*

**The time we waste trying to justify ourselves could be better spent admitting the truth.**

**Confessing our hardness of heart.**

**Repenting.**

**Asking forgiveness.**



We can never justify ourselves before God.

So why should we try to justify ourselves before the world?

Sometimes justification becomes a lifetime career.

Our eyes are forever on the audience.

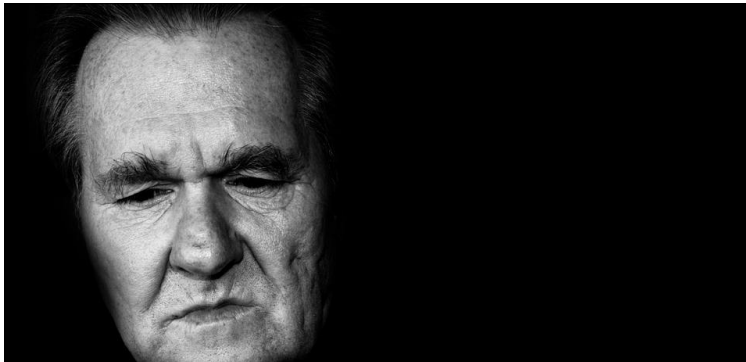
We measure our worth by how we think we're doing in the eyes of those around us.

Like the Pharisees of old....

***"You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts; for what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."***

***Luke 16***

If God knows our hearts and we keep looking to him for mercy, how futile it is to justify ourselves before the world.



*Message: REB August 2021*

*Featured Art: Gerd Altmann ...Geralt on Pixabay*

*Prayer: Lord, convict us when we try to justify ourselves before you and before the world. Help us to face the falsehood and cowardice of our own justifications. Help us to get our eyes off the audience and back on you. We confess our hardness of heart towards others. This hardness, this bitterness, this criticism, this self-pride closes our hearts to you. Draw us close to your mercy, soften our hearts, give us the humility and compassion we need to love others as you call us to love. Amen.*

*Maranatha Mirror*

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