

**GENESIS** Part XIII  
Reference: **Genesis 3:8-13**  
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God's questioned the first man and said: Did you eat from the tree I told you not to eat from?

Man's response to that question was an excuse

**Definition:** an excuse is an attempt to lessen the \_\_\_\_\_ attached to a fault or offense someone has committed.

Excuses exist in 2 basic forms:

- I \_\_\_\_\_ do it - this is a blanket denial
- I did it but it's not my \_\_\_\_\_ - this is also called \_\_\_\_\_; i.e. admitting to some wrong doing but shifting the blame from ourselves to something or someone else

**verse twelve**, *"Then the man said, 'The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.'"*

The first man excused his wrongful action through shifting the blame from off himself and on to woman and then God.

**verse thirteen**, *"And the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.'"*

The first woman also made an excuse and shifted the blame to Satan

This was the first historic blame game but it wasn't the last. One classic biblical case is found in **Exodus 32:1-6** and **15-24** (see screen)

Strategic steps to stop blaming others (even if someone else is sometimes to blame)

**One**...understand this is now a \_\_\_\_\_

**Two**...find a \_\_\_\_\_

Reference: **Proverbs 27:6**, *"Faithful are the wounds of a friend..."*

**Three**...be responsible for our own actions and/ or inactions and if we're wrong then \_\_\_\_\_

Reference: **Proverbs 28:13**, *"He who covers his sins (blaming is a form of covering up our sin) will not prosper, but **whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.**"*

**Four**...quit the \_\_\_\_\_ already  
Reference: **Exodus 3:1-4:17** (see screen)

**Five**... get over the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Definition:** Self-pity is a self-indulgent \_\_\_\_\_ on one's own misfortunes or situation. It is a form of excessive self-love.

Reference: **I Kings 21:1-6** (see screen)