

“Tell The Devil To Cancel My Funeral”

1. READ

Scripture: John 8: 10 - 11 New King James Version (NKJV)

When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

UNCANCELLED

STUDY GUIDE

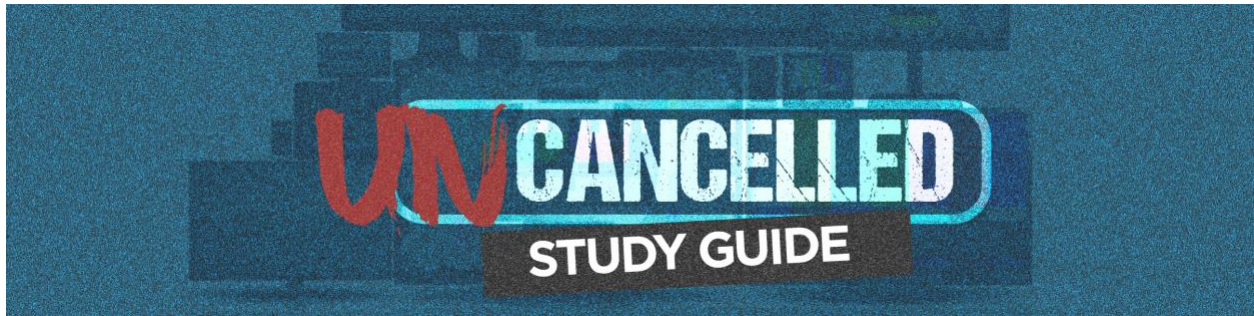
Suggested Chapters to Study This Week: John 8

2. REFLECT

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Pastor Watley concludes his sermon series this week entitled "Uncancelled." For the last few weeks, Pastor has preached from the Gospel text in the Book of John with the "Woman Caught in Adultery." This final week Pastor Watley teaches from the last part of this scripture verses 10 and 11 with the title "Tell The Devil to Cancel My Funeral." Pastor explains in his opening statement that we have several advances in technology in today's world, which have been great, from phones to devices and even the air fryer. However, these advances also come with a "Shadow Side." The Shadow Side can be labeled as things that aren't good about these new times. The world we live in has a major Shadow Side when it comes to this thought of Cancel Culture. As a result, of the technology, what we say can always be recorded. Then Pastor shares also uploaded, and as a result, we can become targets of Cancel Culture.



This has gotten so out of hand that Pastor Watley shares that several 100 writers, professors, and journalists got together to speak against cancel culture. Among these writers were also Salman Rushdie and JK Rowling. Pastor quotes them as saying

“the restriction of debate, whether by a repressive government or an intolerant society, invariably hurts those who lack power and makes everyone less capable of democratic participation.”

These writers stand behind Cancel Culture being wrong not just for the individuals but also for society. Pastor also quotes former Presidents Barrack Obama and Donald Trump, who shared the same view on Cancel Culture. Donald Trump said

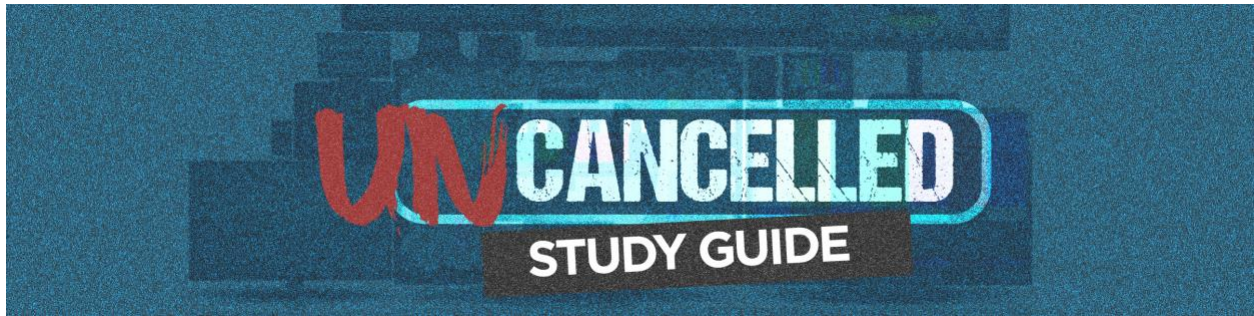
"The goal of cancel culture is to make decent Americans live in fear of being fired, expelled, shamed, humiliated and driven from society as we know it,"

And President Barrack Obama said”

“Like, if I tweet or hashtag about how you didn’t do something right or used the wrong verb,” he said, “then I can sit back and feel pretty good about myself, cause, ‘Man, you see how woke I was, I called you out.’” “That’s not activism. That’s not bringing about change,” he said. “If all you’re doing is casting stones, you’re probably not going to get that far. That’s easy to do.”

Pastor Shares that if the writers aren’t enough and the former Presidents aren’t sufficient, Pastor also disagrees with the Cancel Culture theme. This is because the Word of God is supposed to go against culture. It is supposed to be a teacher of culture and not a follower of it. Pastor Watley shares this list of people in the Bible who others attempted to cancel out of the Bible:

- Jezebel
- Jeremiah
- John the Baptist
- The Apostle Paul
- Stephen who was stoned
- Bartholomew
- And of course Jesus



As these people got Canceled because of their beliefs, if you continue to work as a Christian, Cancel Culture will also come for you. However, God has called you to stand for the Gospel and stand for what is right. This is where we are led to in our scripture as Jesus stands for what is right and not what the culture wanted Him to do. Pastor Says these things about the scripture: This is a **power** play by the scribes trying to trap Jesus

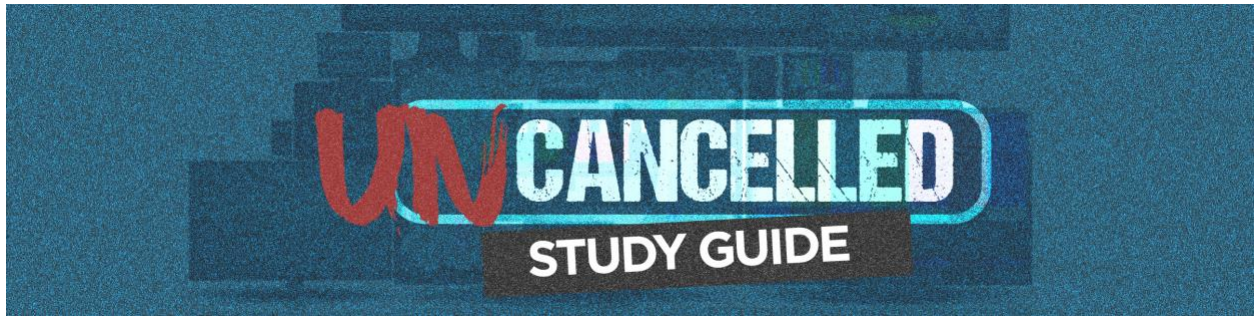
- It was the **privilege** of her male lover not to have to face the same fate.
- It was the **prejudice** of these men to brutalize this woman.
- And it was their **pride** and arrogance that made them believe that they could come for Jesus.

Pastor says that God has a way of handling hypocrites because God knows the end from the beginning. As believers, we don't have to worry about our enemies because God has a plan. Pastor quotes Psalms 37: 1-4 here

1Do not fret because of evildoers,
Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.
2For they shall soon be cut down like the grass,
And wither as the green herb.

3Trust in the LORD, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
4Delight yourself also in the LORD,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

The woman in the text is not alone and not judged by Jesus asking for those who were worthy of stoning her, but she was left alone to move forward because no one was worthy. This was the moment that she would have been able to say, "Cancel my funeral." Jesus asked the question, is there no one left to condemn you? And the woman says, "No one Lord." Pastor Watley teaches that this statement "No one Lord" is a statement of faith knowing that Jesus is indeed Lord. He was the one that stepped between her and death. Jesus blocked it for her, and Pastor reminds us here that Jesus also blocked it for us. We deserved death, but over 2,000 years ago, He went to the Cross for us, and He got up for us as well. Finally, Pastor says that Cancel Culture is killed by Radical Grace. And we need to operator in Radical Grace, but Pastor says it doesn't just end there. Jesus not condemning her doesn't mean that Jesus was condoning what she just did. Pastor reminds us that just because she didn't have to pay for it



doesn't mean it was paid for. Jesus paid for it because Jesus was full of both Grace and Truth John 1:14. Pastor shares these points about Jesus as he closed the sermon.

- Jesus is gracious enough to give us another chance, and truthful enough to tell us don't waste that chance in sin.
- Jesus is loving enough to die for us to offer us grace, and he is loving enough to tell us the truth of how to live.
- Jesus is tender enough to offer us compassion, but he's strong enough to say enough is enough – come out from among them and be separate.
- Jesus is the lamb of God that was slain before the foundations, but he is also the lion of Judah that stands Satan who himself is as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour in sin.

Jesus will keep you but you have to make a change and a shift because He has cancelled the funeral.

UN CANCELLED

STUDY GUIDE

1. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- ĩ In what ways has Jesus Cancelled your funeral?
- ĩ What are some of the practices you can put in place to ensure that you live according to God's will and law in life?

Discussion Questions

- ĩ What do you think was the first thing the woman did when she left Jesus?
- ĩ What do you think the men said when they left Jesus and the woman who was not condemned ?