

“Cancelled – Silence is Golden”

1. READ

Scripture: John 8: 1-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. ³ Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, ⁴ they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. ⁵ Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?” ⁶ This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

UNCANCELLED

STUDY GUIDE

Suggested Chapters to Study This Week: John 8: Matthew 27:11-14; Luke 23:39-43

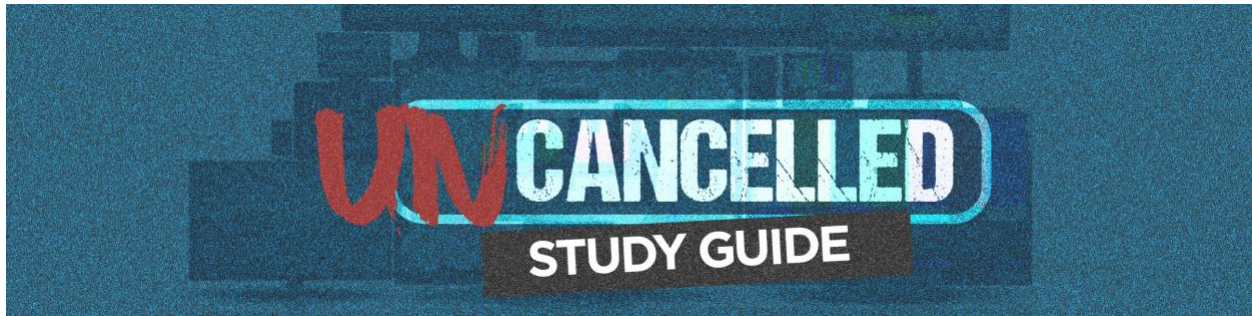
2. REFLECT

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Pastor Watley begins a new sermon series this week entitled "Uncancelled." Pastor will walk us through examples in God's Word that stand to be proof of God's nature not to cancel anyone in this series. In today's society, everyone is willing to cancel anyone for anything, but Pastor Watley explains that this is not what God would have for us. As Pastor opens up this week, he identifies a few different types of culture:

- Ratchet Culture – Culture focused on what is popular in profanity and violence.
- Racist Culture – Culture focused on the color of one's skin.
- Litigious Culture – Culture focused on lawyers and getting rich.
- *Cancel Culture* – Culture focused on social media and shaming someone else.



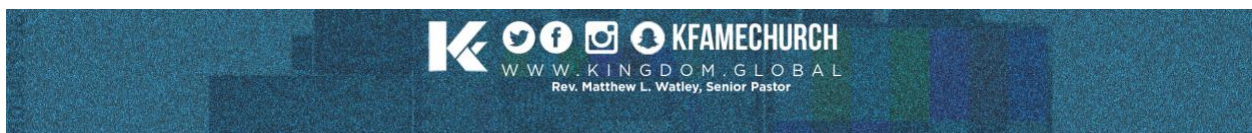
Pastor shared that we live in a cancel culture now, and while that is how it currently is, that isn't how it was. Pastor quoted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "***There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.***"

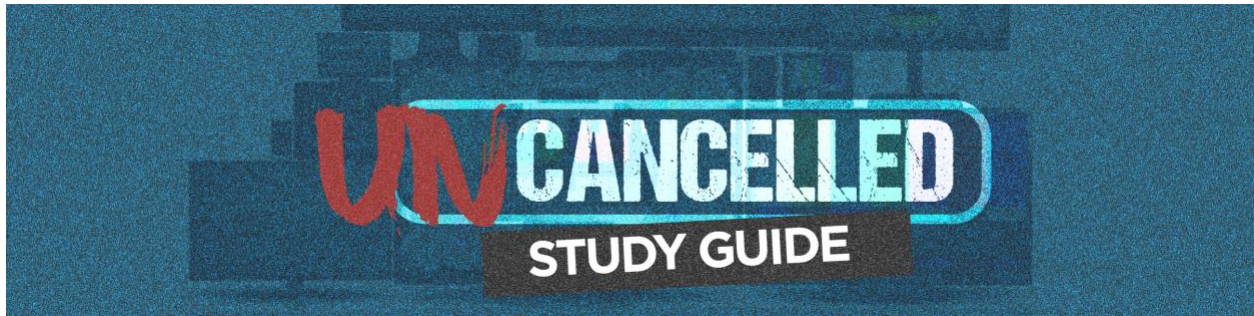
This is to help us understand that we should not throw stones at people because we need to understand where they're coming from. This first message in the series allows us to see this woman who was caught in the act of adultery. Pastor points out that the real issue wasn't the woman but instead the false teachers who wanted to trap Jesus in His decision. They tried to use the woman to test Jesus, but Pastor also explained that the teachers thought that Jesus was soft on sin. This is why they brought the woman to Jesus to cancel her and then cancel Jesus, but instead, God has a plan.

Pastor also examines that if this were a genuine reason for them to come to Jesus, they would not have brought the woman to Jesus alone. She couldn't commit adultery on her own but needed a man to be with her, but they didn't bring the man with her. Pastor says for this reason, "This was not about scripture or holiness. This was about power, control, and hypocrisy." Pastor shares that the key here is that we can't be like the false teachers in this scripture who wanted to cancel the woman. When we do this, we are no better than the cancel culture that everyone is part of today. We have to be careful about whom we allow culture to influence us and our actions against others. Pastor said, "Jesus came to set us free from false thinking to free thinking."

Jesus shared with us what the greatest commandment was; Matthew 22: 37-40 Jesus said to him, "***'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'*** 38 ***This is the first and great commandment.*** 39 ***And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*** 40 ***On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.***" Pastor shares that this is the formula for free-thinking and acting in Jesus Christ. We have to get the media out of our minds and love God the way we're supposed to love God life will be better.

Jesus taught us a lesson here. Pastor explains that He taught us that sometimes we must be willing to ignore people to move forward in life. Pastor says, "some people will never like you, so we can't focus on the ones who don't like you and recognize your gift, instead focus on the other 7 billion people in the world." When you do the right thing, someone will have a problem with you, and you need to be ok with it. When the men came with the woman, Jesus stooped down and ignored them until they all left.





Jesus specialized in ignoring Pastor shares these scriptures:

Matthew 27:11-14 ⁴¹ *Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?”*

Jesus said to him, “It is as you say.” ¹² *And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing.*

¹³ *Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?”*

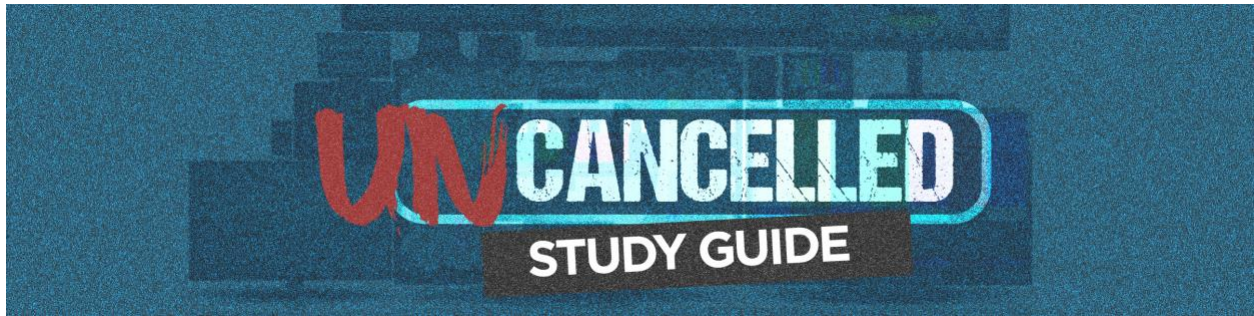
¹⁴ *But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.”*

Luke 23: 39 – 43 ³⁹ *Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, ^{li}“If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.”*

⁴⁰ *But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said ^{li}to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”*

⁴³ *And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”*

Jesus ignored these people because He knew Who He was and what He was able to do. God will tell you when to speak and when to be silent because silence is golden. God has given us everything we need and everything we have an issue with, and we need to take it to the Lord in prayer. Pastor closed and says “That our God does not cancel us when we make a mistake but instead God convicts us and converts us.”



1. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- i What are some of the things and people you have cancelled that you now need to uncanceled?
- i Are there areas in your life that you need to cancel now because they are unhealthy for you?

Discussion Questions

- i What do you think Jesus wrote on the ground that made the men leave one by one?
- i What do you think was the response of the woman in the text before Jesus acted and then after he finished writing on the ground ?