

TAKE HOME SHEET



**Series:** Relationship Realities  
**Message:** Move Inward:  
End the Blame Game  
**Speaker:** Rusty Coram  
**Date:** May 16/17, 2020

**Here are a few questions to think about and discuss with a trusted friend:**

What are some examples you see around you (TV, news, etc.) where blaming others for relationship problems is common?

How do you see placing blame on others as preventing people from accepting responsibility for their own life?

Now for the hard work. How are you tempted to blame others (past or present) as a way to excuse your own choices? (For example, "If my parents had been more involved in my life, I would have worked harder in school and accomplished more.")

What is the difference between acknowledging that others have not treated me well and using that mistreatment as an excuse for my own poor choices?

**Jesus fully understands the hurt, challenges and disappointments we face. He is always ready to accept us and help us, if we will honestly come to Him. Read the following excerpts from Romans, chapter 8, and ask for His help as you lay down blame and replace it with trust.**

*<sup>26</sup> And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.*

*<sup>27</sup> And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.*

*<sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them...<sup>31</sup> If God is for us, who can ever be against us? <sup>32</sup> Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? <sup>38</sup> And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love.*

Romans 8:26-38 (NLT)

**BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:**

NIV – New International Version

NLT – New Living Translation

MESSAGE NOTES



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What happens to me is much less important than what happens in me.

*Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*  
Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. <sup>24</sup> Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.  
Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT)

When I blame others for the state of my life, I have surrendered to being a victim.

*But Joseph said to them, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."*

Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

*You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.*

Psalms 56:8 (NLT)

**No matter what I face, with God I am never alone or without hope.**

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*  
Romans 8:37 (NIV)

*Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.*

Hebrews 12:15 (NLT)