

Week of January 1

Book: No More Excuses

Ch. 1: No More Hiding Behind the Past

Theme: Forgiveness

Scripture Memory: Romans 8:28

Overview:

Forgiveness is often missing within our culture and our personal lives, especially as men. Many times, we are too self-righteous to realize our mistakes and we look to hold others to standards we can't keep ourselves. How many times has our stubbornness and pride gotten in the way of God moving within our lives?

There are two types of forgiveness that most men struggle with: 1-Forgiving others; and 2-Forgiving themselves.

Learning to forgive yourself helps break the shame attached to your past and allows you to walk in confidence as your identity is placed in Christ. The cross is the full expression of forgiveness. Colossians 2:13-15 says: "And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."

Daily Devotions (Scripture & Meditation):

- **Monday:** Luke 12:1-5
 - *What parts of your past and current life are you covering up with Sunday smiles?*
- **Tuesday:** Ecclesiastes 4:7-12, James 5:13-20
 - "If old relationships are destroying you, maybe it's because you have not replaced them with great relationships." *Do you hang out with other men who hold you accountable for being a godly man?*
- **Wednesday:** Gen 39:2-6, 21-23
 - After reading about Joseph's family past and Joseph's own trials, we read on multiple occasions, "the Lord was with Joseph". *Name areas in your life you have seen evidences of God's presence?*
- **Thursday:** Matt 5:43-48
 - Tony Evans writes, "Don't use someone else's irresponsibility in the past as an excuse for your irresponsibility in the present." *Are you blaming anyone or anything from your past for what you are not doing now?*

- **Friday:** Gen 50:20, Rom 8:28
 - Romans 8:28 speaks of “those who are called according to his purpose.” *Where in your life are you living (or not living) according to God’s purpose? What changes should be made now to follow God’s purpose alone through your life?*
- **Saturday:** Romans 12:17-19
 - *Are you stuck in seeking payback for pain of the past? Realizing God offered a substitute for your sins against Him, how will you move forward from the past and be set free for the future?*
- **Sunday (Accountability Day):** Romans 8:28
 - Ask a brother about the scripture memory for the week to spur one another one on to hide God’s word in your hearts.

Weekly Challenge:

Forgiveness is a heart and gospel issue. We are called to request and give forgiveness.

This week, seek out an opportunity to request or give forgiveness. If the relationship is toxic or the person may already be gone, pray. Leave your pain at the foot of the cross.

Lean into the tough conversations. This may be awkward and uncomfortable. If you need help in growing in forgiveness, reach out. That’s why the KCC Men’s Ministry is here.

God has reconciled us to Himself through cross. Therefore, pursue reconciliation in all your relationships.

Song of the Week:

[All Things Are Working - Fred Hammond](#)

