

## **No Excuses!**

n/a

### **Ready:**

If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin.

John 15:22, NIV

### **Set**

I once worked with a head football coach who had a large sign behind his desk that simply read "No Excuses." What this meant to his staff and players was that he would not accept any explanations when something went wrong. He wanted them to be personally responsible and not put the blame on any other people or circumstances.

I see a lack of responsibility today on the part of athletes whenever their coaches call them to be accountable. The players tell their coach that they didn't hear the play, or they blame someone else for making a mistake. Nothing upsets a coach more than a player refusing to be accountable for his or her actions. And nothing is a worse role model to players than when a coach will not accept responsibility for his or her mistakes.

We can't make any excuses for our sin either. If we believe in Jesus Christ and know in our hearts that He lived a sinless life and died for us on the cross, then we must hate sin as much as He did. Why? Because sin prevents us from enjoying the presence of a holy God and from living the righteous life that He desires of us! To allow ourselves to do what we know is wrong and then justify our actions is to give way to sin. Instead, we can live in the freedom of God's forgiveness by confessing our sins to Him and allowing His righteousness to shine through us so that others may see His love!

### **Go**

1. Under what circumstances do you feel you need to make excuses?
2. How do you react when someone fails to take responsibility for his or her actions?
3. In what ways can you be more accountable?

### **Workout**

Psalm 51

Matthew 25:14-30

Luke 14:16-23

Romans 1:18-25

### **Overtime**

Lord, I pray that You will help me to be more obedient to You and to not make excuses for my sinful actions. I want to follow Jesus today, whose blood cleanses me from all unrighteousness so that I can live in Your grace and mercy. Amen.

**Bible Reference:**

Romans 1



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