

# Sunday School Lessons

## Bancroft Mission

### “KINGDOM MAN”

A kingdom man is a man who visibly demonstrates the comprehensive rule of God underneath the Lordship of Jesus Christ in every area of his life.

**THE INTENT OF THESE LESSONS IS NOT TO BRING CONDEMNATION BUT TO HELP US BE KINGDOM MEN.**

Adopted without permission from Tony Evans “Kingdom Man.”

**IMPORTANT INTRODUCTION:**

**In order to maximize these lessons, it is imperative that we read, and meditate on, all of the material.**

Please read the entire book as we have left much out.

From “Kingdom Man” by Tony Evans

Jesus speaks of a treasure. And He call it the kingdom of God. He says that this kingdom is an unusually valuable treasure for which absolutely nothing should stand I the way. In eschatological terms, the kingdom refers to the millennial reign of Christ when He will return to run Earth from Jerusalem for His thousand-year reign. Yet in the here and now, the kingdom has also been set up for us through **kingdom principles, covenants, responsibilities, privileges, right rules ethics, coverings, and authority.**

Matthew 13:44, “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

A treasure is worth fighting for. A priceless treasure, like this one, is worth everything you have. The reason so many me today are living without so much as a semblance of treasure is because they have not understood the mystery of the kingdom; they settle for trinkets, gadgets, golf clubs, fishing rods, campers, video games, careers, cars, and vacation packages.

Those things are okay—unless they take you off course from pursuing the kingdom.

Unless they become your goal.

My son Jonathan is a big guy. In the NFL, he’s taken downs with some of the best players. He can hold his own. But he wasn’t always that big. One time I remember him running up to my office at the church asking me to come down to the gym and watch his five-foot-three frame dunk the basketball. He had been practicing for months.

Once I got there, Jonathan grabbed the ball, dribbled, and dunked. I offered only abbreviated congratulations. Then I turned to the athletic director and pointedly told him to raise the basket back up to where it belonged. Impatient to grow taller, Jonathan had lowered the goal.

“Raise the backed, Jonathan,” I said. “And try again.”

He did. And he didn’t make it. But he kept trying—and, in time, he made it. Men, God has a standard. He has a goal. His kingdom is that goal. Yet what so many have done is lowered His standard only to then congratulate themselves for being able to dunk the ball. The results of this lowered standard, though, affect so many more than just the man on the court. **A lowered standard affects us all. It shows up in our country. In our culture. In the economics of our world.** It doesn’t take much

more than a cursory glance around our homes, churches, communities, and globe to uncover those men—not all, but many—have missed the goal to live as a kingdom man.

The impact of a lowered standard leaves its scars no matter what race, income bracket, or community a person is in. the outcomes may be different depending on the location, but they are just devastating. Promiscuity, emptiness, depression, chronic irresponsibility, family breakup, misuse of finances, divorce, violence, chemical addiction, overeating, indulgence, bankruptcy, low self-esteem, and general aimlessness plague our society as a direct result of the abuse or neglect of biblical manhood.

The deterioration of societies both nearby and around the world has reached an all-time high, while the clarion call for men to come forth to stand for biblical manhood has never rung louder. Our world is on a disparaging path of self-destruction behavior.

### **This must change.**

Yet that change will not occur unless men will raise the standard to where God had originally placed it. These lessons are about raising the standard and defining manhood as God intended it to be. It's about discovering what it means to be a kingdom man.

## Lesson 1

### THE CRY FOR A KINGDOM MAN

#### Introduction:

A kingdom man is the kind of man what when his feet hit the floor each morning the devil says, "Uh oh, he's up."

When a kingdom man steps out his door each day, heaven, earth, and hell take notice. When he protects the woman under his care, she can do little to resist him. His children look to him with confidence. Other men look to him as someone to emulate. His church calls on him for strength and leadership. He is a preserver of culture and a champion of society to keep out evil and usher in good. A kingdom man understands that God never said a godly life would be easy; He just said it would be worth it.

Like a football player erupting from the tunnel at the start of a game, so starts a kingdom man each day. Not only does he take to the field in an explosion of fire, but he also dominates all opposition that rises against him. A kingdom man zeroes in on one purpose and one purpose only—advancing the kingdom for betterment of those within it, which glorifies the King. And he will pursue this at whatever personal cost.

#### I. The Third Team.

A. This third team is strategically involved within every aspect of the game.

1. Without this third team, there would be chaos on the field.

2. There would be confusion.
3. **The third team is the team of officials.**

B. Their commitment, as well as their allegiance belongs to an entirely different kingdom called the NFL office.

1. This kingdom supersedes, overrules, and sits above all others.
2. From the League office, the officials have been given a book.

They have their own book with the governance, guidelines, rules, and regulations by which they are to manage the events on the field. While both teams are constantly pulling at the officials to choose a side, call penalties, or endorse plays, the team of officials must, in spite of personal preferences or emotions, rule according to its kingdom's book. Every decision made by every person on this third team must comply with the rulebook they have. It is their obligation to follow this book that has come directly for the commissioner—**who has delegated authority to them.**

If at any time an official makes a decision that sides with a team or a particular player—because of pressure from the fans, influence of players or coaching staff, or simply personal preferences—and that does not abide by the book, that official will have immediately lose the support and authority of not only the League office, but also of the commissioner. If the viewpoint of an official ever overrules the viewpoint of the book, superseding the kingdom to which the official is ultimately obligated, the official will no longer rule at all. This is because the NFL headquarters at 345 Park Avenue, New York, New York, will stand by an official only if that official stands by the book. **Once an official leaves the book, he has just demoted himself to the status of a fan and become illegitimate in terms of his previously held authority.**

II. Making the Call.

**Men, we are in a battle. We are in a war. The stakes of this war and its casualties are higher than a checkmark in the win or loss column. Lives will be lost. Eternities will be shaped. Destinies will either be discovered or dismissed. Dreams will be attained or relinquished.**

**Jesus has not asked us to be a fan. He has plenty of fans already. Every Sunday morning at 9:45 AM, His fan base shows up in full force. They show up in stadiums, often filled to capacity, all around the world. Within these stadiums, there is great emotion, great singing, preaching, excitement, cheers of adulation, recognition, and statements of affirmation. But Jesus is not interested in just having fans.**

**No fan ever set the stage for a battle to be won. Jesus wants men who will carry out His agenda, governance, and guidelines in a world in crisis.**

**Jesus wants men who will rule well.**

A. Ruling well place in a location called Earth.

B. Instructions from the League office in Heaven.

**This group of men is neither swayed by what the majority says, nor by what the most popular thought at the moment might be, nor even by their own personal preferences. Rather, these men are governed by the kingdom to which they belong. Men who make their calls according to the Book under the authority of their Commissioner, the Lord Jesus Christ, so that chaos will not ensue in this war call life.**

C. Not domination or illegitimate control.

1. Humankind's misuse of the term *rule* through dictatorships and abusive relationships.
2. The legitimate call on man to rule under God's sovereign rule and according to His principles.

III. The cry for a Kingdom Man.

A. You can hear it in the chaos in the culture.

1. To rise up from the homes, schools, neighborhoods, communities, states, and from every shattered soul affected by the absence of kingdom men.

2. It is the heartbeat of every child born or raised without a father.
3. Every woman's dream drowned by an irresponsible or neglectful man.
4. Every hope snuffed out by confusing circumstances.
5. Every lonely soul of a single woman searching for someone worthy to marry.
6. Every sanctuary and community devoid of significant make contributions.

B. Without the third team on the field, all battles would be chaos after the coin toss, leading to a loss of motivation, interest, and order.

C. As a kingdom man, we have been commissioned by heaven to rule Earth.

D. We represent the King

**And as a representative of the King, our purpose is much higher than merely our own and impacts a sphere much wider that we may ever know.**

IV. The Kingdom ruler.

A. Greek word used for kingdom in the New Testament is *basileia*, which means authority and rule.

B. A kingdom always includes three fundamental components: **a ruler, a realm of subjects who fall under his rule, and the rules or governances.**

1. Rulers—the kingdom agenda is the visible demonstration of the comprehensive rule of God over every are of life.

2. Subjects—God’s kingdom transcends time, space, politics, denominations, cultures, and the realms of society.

3. Rules or Governances—Governed by covenant systems, the kingdom’s institutions include the family, church, and civil government.

**God has given the guidelines for the operation of all three, and negligence to adhere to these guidelines results in disorder and loss. While each of the three fundamental components maintains separate responsibilities and dominion, all three are to work in conjunction with the others under divine rule based on an absolute standard truth. When the components work this way, they bring order to a world of confusion and promote personal responsibility under God.**

C. The primary component upon which all else rests in a kingdom is the authority of the ruler.

### **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT**

**Every Scripture reference to God in relation to Adam is made as *Lord God*. Anytime you read the word *Lord* (in all caps), it refers to the name *Yahweh* used for God. The special title *Yahweh* means master and absolute ruler and is the name God used to reveal himself in His relationship with man. Prior to the name *Yahweh*, God had revealed himself as Creator, which is the name *Elohim*.**

**However, when Satan spoke to Eve about eating that which she should not, he did not refer to God as *Lord God*. Satan essentially stripped off the name Lord—and instead said, “Indeed, has *God* said...” Thus, Satan sought to reduce God’s rulership over humankind by beginning with the subtle bug effective twist of His name. In doing**

**so, Satan kept the concept of religion while eliminating divine authority.**

1. Even though Eve ate the fruit first, God went looking for Adam.
2. Ever since then a continual battle has existed over who will rule humankind.
3. When men make decisions based on their own thoughts, beliefs, or values—like Adam—rather than based on what God has to say as Ruler, then men are choosing to rule themselves as Adam did.
4. Essentially, they—like Adam—are seeking to dethrone their own Creator while still recognizing His existence.

**It is religion without the ruler relationship of Yahweh. There are two answers to every question—god’s answer and everyone else’s. When they contradict, everyone else is wrong. Removing master and absolute ruler from God’s relationship with man essentially places God’s answer on the same level as everyone else’s. Adam’s sin was allowing his wife’s human viewpoint, which had been initiated by Satan, to override the revealed will and Word of God. Adam allowed a person close to him to overrule God.**

**Men, only by putting Lord back into the equation will we experience the dominion and authority we were created to have.**

V. God’s Authority.

A. Exodus 34:23, “Three times in the year all your men shall appear before the Lord, the LORD God of Israel.”

1. If the men submitted, they were told that they, and those connected to them, would receive God’s covering, protection, and provision.
2. They would receive this only if they positioned themselves under His absolute rule.

B. The same principle of God’s rulership that applied to the Israelites is no different than God’s rulership today.

1. He is God—*Lord, GOD, God of Israel*, master supreme God, ruler, and judge.

*A kingdom man, therefore, is one who visibly demonstrate the comprehensive rule of God under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in every area of his life.* Rather than Adam being the prototype for man, now Jesus Christ—as the last Adam (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:45)—is the prototype for a kingdom man.

A kingdom man is a man who rules according to God's rule.

2. When a kingdom man functions according to the principles and precepts of the kingdom, there will be order, authority, and provision. Yet when he doesn't, he opens himself up, and those connected to him, to a life of chaos.

#### CHALLENGE: HOW WILL WE LEAD?

Men, how we lead will play a large part in either the life or death experienced within our realm. We can either lead those in our care to a place of safety, or we can drive those in our care to a place of chaos. But to rule well is not a call that we make one day and then forget about. Ruling well is a lifelong skill forged through faithfulness and dedication.

The King has given us a rulebook by which we are governed—by which we are to rule, lead, make decisions, direct, guide, and align our life choices. This rulebook is His Word. When we lead according to what He says in His Word, He will back us with the authority we need to carry it out. Yet when we don't, we are on our own. Men, many tomorrows will be determined by how well we rule today.

When we lead according to His principles and His kingdom agenda, we free others around us to be what they were created to be as well. Yet when we don't, we invite a world of chaos, disorder, and destruction not only into our own life, but also into the lives of those within our influence.

When God searches for a man to advance His kingdom, does He call our name?



## Lesson 2

### The Concept of A Kingdom Man

#### Introduction

So few men understand what it means to be in alignment under God, and yet most will fiercely require their wife to align under them.

From Pastor Tony Evans

What strikes me as I walk through the security checkpoints and experience the isolation that inevitably comes with being inside a prison facility is how each of the prisoners had, at one point, been free. Not only that, but each of them also had, at one point, been a child and free—running barefoot, playing games, or falling asleep with dreams of slaying dragons and claiming possibilities. If we were to look at their family histories, however, most of them not only lacked a man to protect and guide them, but also the prisoners had suffered under the negative impact of one man or many. As a result, each of the prisoners now slept in a cold cell covered by only a thin blanket of abandonment, shame, insecurity, and regret.

I mentioned these prisoners when I spoke at an event on the church's role in community restoration in Plano, Texas. Ironically, this event was held in a building called the Hope Center. Yet the statistics of fatherlessness surrounding the inmates left little room for hope of much changing in the next generation unless men enmasse begin to answer the call to be kingdom men. **Roughly 70 percent of all prisoners come from father homes. Approximately 80 percent of all rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes.** The statistics on fatherlessness outside of the prison population are just as alarming. **Seventy-one percent of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes; 63 percent of teen suicides occur in homes where the father was either abusive or absent.** In suburbia, many fathers have gone "missing" either through divorce, neglect, or over-indulgence. Many fathers put their careers over their families, or they love the golf course more than they love their kids.

Fatherlessness, whether it comes through outright abandonment or through more subtle forms of abandonment, leaves similar scars on those affected by it. **Virtually every adult social pathology (Social pathology is assessing the crimes and problems origin from specific age, values, and criminal history) has been linked to either fatherless homes or homes with a father and/or husband who was absent, abusive, or neglectful.**

To many of us living a comfortable life outside of those statistical realities, those numbers may seem impersonal and easy to ignore, but the effects of those statistics impact us all. **On average, taxpayers spend more than \$8 billion annually on high school dropouts for public assistance programs such as food stamps, according to a May 2010 report by CBS News. High school dropouts also earn an average of \$260,000 less in their lifetime than graduates—giving our nation a cumulative loss of over \$300 billion annually in earned taxable revenue. Teen pregnancies cost American taxpayers and average \$10 billion annually in public assistance,** lost revenue, and increased health care costs. And with **the prison population having nearly triples from 1987 to 2007 to the highest per capita rate in the world, we now spend over \$52 billion a year on prisons.**

Society's problems are not just society's problems. They are the church's problems. They are our problems. The consequences of society's problems reach us all and have caused our nation to now stand on the brink of economic collapse.

The inmates at the prison I visit came from different cultures, backgrounds, generations, and experiences. They had committed different crimes. But one thing that most shared was that they had either come from a fatherless home or a home where the father was absent, neglectful, or abusive.

When I looked into their eyes—both men and the women—I didn't see statistics. I didn't see numbers on a page. I saw real pain, real emptiness, real longing, real anger, real loss, and real need. I wish you could have seen it too because **statistics can never tell the story of a soul.**

I. Adam, Where Are You?

A. How did we end up here in the first place?

1. The answer to that question isn't as complex as you might imagine.
2. **Somewhere along the line, we have forgotten to check with the Book by which we are to rule.**

B. Any discussion on the role, purpose, and leadership of a man must begin with Adam.

1. Rule—when carried out under the overarching rule of “God—is a liberating leadership not only for him, but also for those around him.
2. **Legitimate authority entails all that God provides for and permits a man to do, but not all that a man wishes to do.**

C. We are responsible.

1. As a man, we are responsible for that which fall within the realm of influence that God has given us: our family, ministry, career, resources, community, or other areas of personal influence.
2. Even though it was Eve whom the serpent tempted to eat the fruit that had been forbidden in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-6, “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; “but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. “For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So, when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”), it was Adam whom God went looking for.
3. Genesis 3:9, “Then the Lord God **called to the man**, and said to him, “Where are you?”
4. Adam had been placed in the garden both to cultivate and keep it (Genesis 2:15, “Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.”)

a. To cultivate the land meant to make it productive and to develop its potential. Out of the productivity of the land, Adam would have what he needed to provide for those within his care.

b. The Hebrew word for *keep* was *shamur* and it meant to guard or have charge of.

5. A long-standing problem with men: silence (notice the *silence* of Adam).

a. Adam had been naming things.

b. When the serpent showed up, Adam had nothing to say to it or to the woman.

c. Genesis 3:6, says, "...and she gave also to her husband *with her*..."

**Even when Eve turned to him and laid down a new agenda for their home, Adam didn't say a thing. He just ate.**

## Lesson 3

## Aligning Ourselves for Impact

Introduction: From Tony Evans, “Kingdom Man.”

With only seconds left on the clock and no time-outs remaining in the 1958 NFL Championship Game, the Baltimore Colts faced a critical decision: go for a touchdown or kick a field goal. Even though Colts quarterback Johnny Unitas had been nothing short of perfect, moving the ball 62 yards in what is one of the most famous drives in NFL history, the Colts still needed to score in the last seven seconds. Down by 3 to the New York Giants and with the all on the 13-yard line, it could be that Colts Coach Weeb Ewbank remembered the failed fourth and goal earlier in the half when he had told Unitas to “go for it.” Rather than scoring, the Colts were pummeled by the Giants for a 4-yard loss, turning the ball over on downs.

Even though a field goal would only tie the Championship Game, it was better than a loss. As the seconds ticked away, Colt’s kicker Steve Myhra followed Ewbank’s orders and made a mad dash to get into position. Myhra’s kick went sailing, splitting the uprights, and sent the NFL into a panic. The score was now 17-17.

Up until then, regular season NFL games that ended in a tie remained just that. But this was a Championship Game. What’s more, this was a Championship Game in a sport that was struggling to gain notoriety and fans, having played a distant runner-up in popularity to the national pastime of baseball. Players had battled and fought year after year with bruises, concussions, and even a broken leg in this particular game, only to gain little national respect and even less of a paycheck. Without the economic support of a strong fan base, the future of professional football in America looked as if it might turn into an awkward fumble.

But this nationally televised Championship Football Game had proven to be an eyes-glued-to-the-screen one so far, no doubt whetting the appetite of a potential fan base for more. And now—having ended in a tie—none of the forty-five million viewers could bring themselves to look away.

Myself included.

Having grown up in Baltimore, I felt this was my team. These were my Colts. My childhood sports hero, Colt’s halfback Lenny Moore, had been one of the first black men to claim the honor NFL Rookie of the Year just a few seasons before. My eight-year-old eyes stared at the screen with the millions of others. We were all holding our breath and waiting to see what would happen next.

The coaches and players as well.

Then, in an unprecedented move, the officials walked onto the field and announced that the game would go into overtime. For the first time in NFL history, and pretty much a decision made on the spot, a game went to sudden death. I, along with the rest of Baltimore, was glad that it did, because not too many plays later, the Colts converted a third and goal into 6 points, claiming the 1958 NFL Championship title. Since then, that Championship Game has been dubbed “The Greatest Game Ever Played.”

I am sure you won’t be surprised if I tell you that every able-bodied schoolboy in Baltimore gathered in the alley or at the local park every Saturday after that to play football. I had already made it

my habit to play touch football during the week in the alley behind my home and tackle football each Saturday at the local park. But when the Colts clinched no on the 1958 championship but also went on to claim the 1959 championship as well, boys showed up in droves at out games—each one trying his hand a being a Moore, a Unitas, or a Raymond Berry.

I don't know what it is about boys and heroes, but you can ask any man who it was that he looked up to as a kid, and he'll start rattling off a name, or two, or ten. The accomplishments of men inspire boys to become like them. The back-to-back Colts' championships undoubtedly planted dreams in the hearts and souls of boys throughout Baltimore. As a result, more than most of my friend wanted to grow up to play football.

I did, too.

**But there was something else that I wanted to be when I grew up even more. I wanted to be a man.**

I. Being a Man.

A. If we, as men, could ever fully comprehend all that God has not only intended for us but has also provided for us, we would improve:

1. Our own lives.
2. Our families.
3. Our churches.
4. Our communities.
5. The entire world.

B. Many false definitions of manhood exist, including the following:

1. *Passive Man*: A male is who is unable or unwilling to take the leadership role that God has assigned him to have.

2. *Domineering Man*: A male who thinks manhood is measured by his ability to emotionally and/or physically force compliance to his demands.

3. *Sexual Man*: A male who measures his manhood by the number of women he can conquer.

4. *Corporate Man*: A male who defines his manhood by the amount of time he invests in his career and/or by the amount of money he can accrue.

5. *Irresponsible Man*: A male who refuse to provide properly for the well-being of those under his care.

6. *Hedonistic Man*: A male who lives for self-gratifying pleasure at the expense of those around him.

From Tony Evans. Not too long ago I took my car into the dealership for its routine oil change and other maintenance. Shortly after I had dropped off my car, I got a call from the dealership telling me that they had discovered another issue that was wrong with my vehicle: My tires were not wearing evenly. The problem, though, wasn't with my tires. My tires were fine. In fact, my tires had been top-of-the-line quality tires. My problem, as the mechanic explained it to me, was with my vehicle's alignment. He told me, "Even if I replace your tires, Tony, if I don't fix the alignment, you will end up with the same problem on your new tires."

C. Wear and tear.

1. There is a lot of wear and tear on women who are being misused, abused, or neglected.
2. There is a lot of wear and tear on children who are being forgotten, misled, or turned loose.
3. There is a lot of wear and tear on churches that split, sit stagnant, or fail to develop men who grasp the abundant life or the high call to discipleship.
4. There is a lot of wear and tear on our communities and our nation as the economic, educational, racial, criminal, social, and health care wars dismantle our stability.

D. **Men, we don't have a wife, family, kids, community, or job problem. We have a man problem.**

1. It boils down to us.
2. If a man is out of alignment with God's prescription for kingdom manhood, it not only messes him up, but it can also mess up anyone or everyone else who comes into contact with him.

**One of the major causes of the crises we are facing today in so many arenas is that men are not aligning themselves with the purposes of God's kingdom. Until that alignment is made right, wear and tear will only perpetuate itself.**

II. Which culture are we in?

A. "Influencer."

1. Many men are out of alignment with God because they have gotten their definition of manhood from illegitimate, or errant sources, including media, male influencers in their life, the home they grew up in, or even music.
2. A kingdom man intentionally aligns his life, choices, thoughts, and actions under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
3. Being a kingdom man involves more than merely a box checked on your birth certificate that indicates male.

## B. Three-hoods.

1. Male hood=sexual identity.
2. Boy-hood
  - a. Immaturity coupled with dependency.
  - b. He is immature.
  - c. Boys do not make wise decisions on their own, which is fine—*if you are seven*.

The difficulty today, though, is that we have many men who are no longer seven but who are still looking for somebody else to take care of them. They are looking someone else to be responsible for them. They are looking for someone else to be responsible for them. They are looking for someone else to clean up their mess—not just physically, but the emotional, financial, or relational messes they leave in their wake as they rush through life making unwise or self-absorbed decisions. **Any wife who has to take care of her man is actually taking care of a boy because that is a characteristic of boyhood.** While it is the rare woman who will admit her age, it has become the rare man who will act his age, which leaves behind worldly confusion rather than a lasting kingdom impact for good.

A number of marital problems stem from a man's trying to live in both of these first two hoods at the same time—male-hood and boyhood. IN this combination, not only is the man irresponsible and dependent, but he also demands sexual fulfillment based on his sexual identity. This leads to conflicting relational standards producing not only confusion in the marriage, but also feelings of being used on the part of the wife. What woman wants to be intimate with someone whom she has to clean up after, wake up for church, and babysit? Her rationale is that if he can be a man in bed, then why can't he be a man in the living room, at the office, with the finances, as a father, or in the marital relationship. And it is a fair question to ask.

d. Anytime there is an absence of men—whether that be physically or simply by definition of what it means to be a kingdom man—the impact is like a tsunami.

**A nation without kingdom men to lead it will succumb to many ills. As revealed in the book of Isaiah, a culture is in trouble when real men are hard to come by. Isaiah 3:12, “As for My people, children *are* their oppressors,**

**And women rule over them.**

**O My people! Those who lead you cause *you* to err,  
And destroy the way of your paths.”**

e. Ezekiel 22:30, “So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.”

3. *Manhood.*

a. Biblical manhood.

**This is when man not only understands and embraces, but also fully lives out, the principles and truths in God's Word.**

b. Responsibility is critical.

Tony Evans and Tony Dungy: Please read.

The year Tony Dungy coached his team the Indianapolis Colts to a win in the Super Bowl, he and I would phone each other regularly for prayer. All throughout the season, we prayed—not just for a winning season, but for God to be glorified through this venue. In fact, I'll never forget Tony calling me the week of the Super Bowl and saying, "Win or lose, this is my prayer—I want to make sure that I make God's name great." And he did.

Tony Dungy's road to the Super Bowl, though, wasn't paved in gold. It was a long, hard road filled with obstacles and challenges. Tony shared once how his father taught him to approach the challenges of life as a man. He, like myself and many others, grew up in a time of racial segregation and separate-but-not-so equal schools. Tony's dad worked as a teacher in a school system with unequal tools, unequal equipment, unequal textbooks, unequal facilities, unequal pay, and often even unequal staff. Tony says that his father would always hold to his calling that God had charge him with the task of training the students in an unequal environment on as equal of a level as he could. He said that if his son, Tony, and the other students couldn't go to the other schools that were better equipped to teach children and prepare them for the future, then it was up to him to teach them at that same level in any way that he could.

Tony Dungy says his father taught him never to complain. His father modeled the responsibility of manhood despite opposition. He taught Tony to take care of business as best as you can with the resources that you have. He never asked Tony or the other students to skip over the reality that segregation and racism were an injustice, but **he didn't want them spending all of their time focusing on what they couldn't change rather than on being responsible for what they could.**

Because of this, Tony said it brought tears to his eyes when a few years ago he and the Indianapolis players drove to the White House to be congratulated by the President of the United States for winning the Super Bowl. Tony's father had taught just miles from the White House in unequal, segregated schools, and here was Tony who had become the first African American coach to win a Super Bowl. This came about in large part because his father modeled what it meant to take responsibility for what he could control while waiting on God to change the situation of what he could not. His father lived aligned under God and responsible over those within his care.

The difficulties that we face in our individual lives, families, churches, and communities are not fundamentally tied to our personality differences or our situations. The problems that we face today are fundamentally tied to what Adam began in the garden—a lack of alignment. The devil has sought to exploit personality flaws, differences, backgrounds, histories, and relation issues, but the reason he has had such an open door to twist, turn, and take advantage of those areas is because we are out of



alignment. As a result, those we are responsible for under our care have drowned in the wake of our chaos. Alignment is not just a suggestion; men, it is essential to conducting our divine reason for being.

II. Women and children first.

#### Illustration

On February 26, 1852, at approximately two o'clock in the morning, a British Royal Navy Ship, the HMS *Birkenhead*, carrying 643 people suddenly struck a sunken rock off the coast of the appropriately named Point Danger. Having recently left Cape Town, South Africa, the ship was but hours away from its final destination. The iron-hulled, ocean-going paddle steamer carried mostly military personnel, but as was the custom of the day in areas of relative security, a number of wives and children had also come along.

The damage done to the mammoth ship was irreparable, having sliced her bow clean open between the forepeak and the engine room. In fact, within twenty minutes of having struck the rock, the ship broke into million unsalvageable pieces—sinking into oblivion. But those final twenty minutes were a defining twenty not only for everyone on board the HMS *Birkenhead*, but also for countless lives since.

Only moments after impact, both the captain of the ship, Captain Robert Salmond, along with his right-hand man, Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Seton, appeared on the deck. With most of the crewman having had less than a year of military experience, the captain and lieutenant colonel faced the potential for ensuing chaos. An early assessment of the damage made it clear that the ship would go down in minutes. The only hope for survival in the shark-infested waters roughly three miles from land would be the eight lifeboats onboard. Unfortunately, only three of those lifeboats were able to be lowered; the other five didn't have working chains because of damage from exposure to rain.

Lieutenant-Colonel Seton quickly set the tone of order on the ship when everyone first arrived on deck.

History did not record that Seton or Salmond ever used the exact words "women and children first," but everyone who survived the wreck said that they make it perfectly clear who was to get into the three lifeboats first. Precedent on navy or military vessels had been that in times of emergencies during a war, it was every man for himself. But his boat carried that which was precious—women and children. Those in command couldn't have disorder in light of that. First, they filled the boats with the women and the children, and next they followed the protocol known as "Funeral Order," putting the youngest men on first.

Within ten minutes, all three boats had been filled and lowered in order to drift away from the sinking wreck. Yet as the *Birkenhead* lurched, and began to break up for its ultimate demise, the men left on the ship were put in further danger by the sudden falling of the ship's funnel, which had been torn from its base. This led to an increase in anxiety and a temporary break in the remaining line. Seton, knowing full well the downfall of disorder, would have none of that. He quickly shouted for the men to resume their positions. They immediately did.

Yet as the ship began to make its last twists and turns in the eerie calm just before the closing chapter, the men began to panic, threatening to jump overboard and make for the boats. In fact, even Captain Salmond urged the men to jump overboard and swim for the boats.

Certain this would mean the inevitable deaths of the women and children in them, two junior officers, Captain Wright and Captain Girador, raised their swords in the air and shouted for the men to stand fast.

Without hesitation, every man held his place in strong submission, even as the ship broke up beneath them and the waters swallowed the majority of them to their deaths. Only a handful were able to make the three-mile swim to shore, surviving the shark attacks. Most died, including Lieutenant-colonel Seton and Captain Salmond.

Yet everyone in the three lifeboats survived.

More than a few good men lost their lives that day so that a handful of women and children could keep theirs. Those remaining recounted shortly afterwards that even when the ship went down, none of the men struggling to survive in the cold, shark-infested waters tried to approach the boats. The charge had been given. They had been asked to stand fast. And as a result, every woman and child were kept safe.

“Women and children first” instantly became the protocol not only for all future maritime emergencies in Britain, but for many emergencies around the world as well. A history of the 74<sup>th</sup> Highlanders says the action on the *Birkenhead* “sheds more glory upon those who took part in it than a hundred well-fought battles.”

Had frantic men stormed the lifeboats that cold February morning off the coast of Point Danger, it is likely that all passengers, including the men, would have been lost as the boats capsized in the chaos.

Yet, because the men were men who honored the kingdom values set before them, not only did the women and children survive, but the men’s legacies did as well.

**Men, we serve in a kingdom. God is our King. Christ is our head, our leader. And He has asked us to stand fast. He has asked us to give our undivided allegiance to Christ’s command through His headship over our lives, regardless of the cost. It is our responsibility as men to see to it that those under our care—those who depend on us and those within our realm of influence—have every opportunity possible for protection, provision, and safety. If we don’t give that to them, not only will they end up suffering, but others will suffer, too.**

A. Stand fast.

1. *Whatever we do, let’s do it right. Let’s be men. Let’s be real men.*

2. A man’s goal every day is to fulfill our responsibilities, as well as to seek the welfare and good of anyone and everyone we can legitimately impact within our realm of influence.

3. As kingdom men, we are not from this Earth.

a. Scripture states clearly that we have been seated with Christ in the heavenly realm—Ephesians 2:6, “and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,”

b. We operate with a kingdom set of rules backed by kingdom authority that has the power, when used correctly, to transform our ordinary life into an extraordinary one.

Being a kingdom man is about more than just being a great football player, a great businessman, a successful community leader, or a wealthy individual. Being a kingdom man involves being the hero who aligns himself under the headship and authority of Jesus Christ so he can fully access the power and authority of Jesus Christ to positively influence and impact everything and everyone within his realm.

A kingdom man models himself after the greatest Kingdom Man of all, who over 2000 years ago rescued a world in distress when, rather than call for twelve legions of angels to set Him free from the cross, willingly submitted himself under the orders of His Captain and King—to stand fast for all who would have otherwise been lost.

B. Stand in the confidence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### III. Headship.

A. Kingdom man on earth, properly aligned under Jesus Christ, or, and earthly man.

B. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians.

1. Problem after problem.

2. In Corinth, everything was out of order.

3. Back to fundamentals.

4. **Paul said that we must start with the basics of alignment and headship.**

5. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:3, “But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman *is* man, and the head of Christ *is* God.”

a. Christ is the head of every man.

b. The husband is the head of the wife.

c. God is the head of Christ.

### IV. God is the head of Christ.

A. Idea of the “head.”

1. Includes covering, provision, protection, guidance, and responsibility.

2. Ephesians 5:25-33 (man is to emulate Christ in his marriage as head), “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This is a great

mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

B. Headship isn't about essence or being; it is about function.

#### Important

We know that Christ's nature of being is the same essence as God, but when it came to functioning on Earth, Jesus came under God to carry out the divine plan. Theology also clearly tells us that Jesus is equal to God. Headship doesn't determine or reflect a lack of equality. In fact, Jesus himself states clearly the He “and the Father are one” (John 10:30, “I and My Father are one.” Likewise, headship doesn't deny oneness. Rather, **headship defines function.**

1. If headship wasn't about function, then the crucifixion would have never happened. Jesus would have never been buried. He would have never been resurrected, justification, sanctification, or been able to look forward to glorification.

2. Because Jesus understood and lived out the principles of headship, He yielded His reticence to God's will saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done,” Luke 22:42.

3. John 6:38, “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

III. The Husband is the head of the Wife.

A. This is not a blanket ticket for male domination; rather this is a hierarchical structure for the home (if the woman is married).

**This does not mean that a man has absolute authority over a woman. He has authority over a woman only as long as it is consistent with the Word of God. For example, a man cannot tell his wife to rob a bank then hold her guilty for not submitting if she doesn't do it. The man's authority, as we are about to see, must directly be placed under the authority of Jesus Christ for it to be legitimate, which is why Paul says a woman is to be subject to her husband “as to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:22).**

B. Women were designed to respond.

1. Enabling her to uniquely fulfill her divine destiny in completing a man.
2. And, being completed by a man.
3. Women have been created to receive and respond physiologically, emotionally, and spiritually.

C. She can receive and respond positively, she can also receive and respond negatively.

1. If the wrong things are said or done to her, she may react in a way that reflects what is being done to her.

2. We could end up with a nagging or a rebellious heart.

D. If she lacks attention or protection, then she will receive that and respond by doing everything in her power to protect or provide for herself, as well as position herself in a way so she won't run the risk of being let down again.

**All she is doing is giving us the feedback based on what we are giving her. She is a mirror reflecting to us the impact and influence that we, or other males, have had on her.**

**If we want a summer wife, men, then don't bring home winter weather. But if we have a winter wife, me, then it is time to bring out the sun. Women have been created to receive and respond; therefore, we regulate much of the temperature in our home. Of course, there may be extenuating factors out of our control, but for the most part, men simply are not recognizing or maximizing the power of our influence in the home.**

E. This can take some time.

Depending upon how long biblical manhood has been absent in a woman's life., that may be how long it takes for her to receive and respond because she needs to be sure biblical manhood is real when it does show up. She is not going to expose herself in a vulnerable manner just because you say that you heard a sermon, read a book, went to a conference, sat in a Sunday school class, or had a great morning devotion. Neither is she going to be vulnerable if she thinks that you are just acting nicely so you can turn up the heat in the bedroom. For a woman to receive and respond willingly placing herself under the functional headship of a man, she wants to know that we are a kingdom man and that we are under the headship of Christ.

F. This concept is all about the covering.

1. When she knows that we are covered by God, she will respond to our covering her.

2. She will rest.

G. Lead with compassion, consistency, and wisdom, when we involve her in every significant decision, and when we value her input and desires, we will discover that our relationship with her will go to a level we never dreamed possible.

**H. For a man to be "over a woman," he must take seriously his responsibility for her wellbeing. He must cover her in such a way that she is free to respond well.**

V. Christ is the head of Every Man.

A. A man covers a woman because Christ covers a man.

**B. To hold a woman accountable to something that we ourselves are not willing to do is a double standard, and it is one of the major reasons that cause the breakdown of the family.**

C. If a man is expecting a woman to be answerable to him, she should see him modeling that same principle by being answerable to God's headship as well.

D. God rules His world representatively.

While He is the ultimate Ruler and sovereign over all, God has historically ruled through representatives such as judges, prophets, kings, and, in the age of the new covenant, He established His rule in the church through the elders and leaders (see 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3 and Titus 1). Yet when headship is not aligned properly, His presence, power, and authority in his representatives are compromised or lost.

E. Every Christian man, therefore, has a head in the same way that Jesus, the son of God, had Someone over Him who covered, provided for, and guided, and to whom He was accountable.

F. No Christian man is autonomous.

G. Every Christian man, whether single or married, is answerable to Jesus Christ.

## **When a man learns to submit his maleness to the lordship of Jesus Christ, he is living out the basic principles of kingdom manhood.**

Important Read:

Colossians 1:18 says, "And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence." NLT says it this way, "Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything."

Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:22&23, "And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." The church, established as a governing body in subjection to Christ, has been designed to uniquely carry out the role of manifesting God's rule on earth. A man who is not under the leadership and guidance of the local church is not living under the headship of Christ since the church is the body and fulness of Christ. Keep in mind that filling a suit on Sunday does not constitute being under the leadership and guidance of the church. The biblical kingdom-minded church was a central location involved in multiple aspects of daily life.

The *ekklesia*, which is translated into the contemporary word *church*, essentially involved a group of citizens convened in a specific location of the purposes of deliberation as well as for establishing or communicating governing measures. As part of the *ekklesia* in Greek societies, a man belonged to a group of individuals who issued and carried out legislation on behalf of the Greek population. It was more than just a place to hear great singing and inspirational thoughts. It was formal location designed for establishing a formal code for societal matters.

A man's involvement with the church, the *ekklesia*, should reach beyond the two hours on a Sunday. His involvement is where he is to receive guidance and accountability, as well as where he is to participate in establishing the overarching strategy of affecting the citizens around him.

Being involve at a greater level does not mean, however, that a man shouldn't lead his wife or family in devotions or that he shouldn't take it upon himself to pray, study God's Word and grow as a follower of Christ. But the church is to function as a place of direction to assist a man in living as a kingdom man. In fact, the church is to be the place where a man gathers the truths of God's Word to take back home to his family to teach them in more detail.

The church is also to serve as a place where those who have received training in studying God's Word are available to answer questions that men may have as they seek to teach and disciple the members of their home. **Yet far too frequently it seems that it is the women who are binging the questions to the pastors and church leaders instead. Men, this is our job. If our wives or children have a question, it is our responsibility to hunt it down and provide and answer for them. If our wives are referencing our pastor's name more than ours during the week, we are not adequately satisfying our role as spiritual head in our homes. We are our wives' pastors.**

A major component of being a pastor comes in thinking about what the person or people under our care needs to grow spiritually. As our wives' pastor, we need to intentionally consider what our wives need to mature in their walk with Christ. And then we need to take steps to provide those things for them.

The role of the pastor involves shepherding, consistent discipleship, mediation, counseling (lending an empathetic and wise ear), and oversight. How many people would attend a church where the pastor showed up to preach once every three or four months? Not many. Just as a pastor in a church needs to take his role and responsibilities seriously, as the pastor in our home, we need to create an environment where our wives look to us for spiritual leadership and covering.

### The Role of the Church

One of the growing concerns in our culture is that in our shift toward a more convenience-store church mentality, we are drifting dangerously away from the significant role the church is to play in the life of every believer. Within a fully operational church—depending on the depth of the situation—the guidance and assistance that men need to maximize their biblical manhood come in many forms. For some men, the church serves as a place of teaching, personal ministry, fellowship, and encouragement. For other men, personal discipleship needs may be so high that they need deeper accountability in addition to everything else. When men begin to function in their homes, accountable to the guidance and direction of a leader in the church, things change. Men have transformed their marriages that they had originally thought were headed straight to court. The transformations occurred when they willingly placed themselves under the guidance and counsel of a pastor, associate pastor, or church leader.

As mentioned earlier, women are made to respond to how a man handles himself and relates to her. Men, when we lead well, we don't have to push, pull, demand, or berate a woman to have her fulfill her role in our families. When we lead well, and when she sees the security that she has in knowing that she can respond to our headship because we submit to Christ's headship, she will respond under us if she has any spiritual sensitivity at all. When we are willing to temporarily replace sexual intimacy with spiritual intimacy as Paul instructed in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7: 5, ("Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.") our wives will not only see our seriousness and respect, but heaven will also see it and respond.

**The problem in marriages today isn't that we have too many women who don't want to submit. The problem is that we have too many men who don't want to submit—to the leadership of Jesus Christ.** We should not be surprised if a woman is not following our lead if we are not following Christ's lead. If we are not openly and actively following Christ's lead, we cannot complain when our wives are not following us.



## Lesson 4

## Dominion's Roar

## Introduction

The king of the jungle, the lion, has a roar that can be heard up to five miles away. This is especially impressive when you realize that only four animals in the cat family can actually roar at all—the lion, tiger, leopard, and jaguar. These four belong to what is called the *Panthera* group because of their unique tow-piece hyoid bone in the throat. No others have it. Yet of the cats that roar, the lion roars the most. The lion roars the longest. And the lion roars the loudest.

A lion's roar has such force that it can actually lift the dust off the ground and create a large whirling circle of dirt in the air in front of him. The roar has been known to cause the metal frames of vehicles to vibrate. And it undoubtedly makes every fine hair on the back of any human's neck stand up at the sound of it.

Numbers of men have dedicated countless hours to studying this untamed king. A lion's strength not only fascinates us, but also inspires us. His prowess not only captivates us, but also arouses us. His regality not only allures us, but it also awakens our own.

One of the things that has been studied the most about lions is *why* a lion will roar with such force. Why does a lion sound his roar with the enormous power to extend five miles? Think about it; five miles is no small distance. Five miles is the length of 88 football fields or 283 professional basketball courts, and would take a Ferrari racing at top speeds nearly two minutes to cross it. What is it that propels a lion to roar with such volume to cover that ground? Scientists who study lions have learned over the years that a lion roars for several reasons.

At times, a lion roars to warn off intruders, thus fulfilling his role as protector. Other times a lion roars to startle prey, as he gets closer to his final move of taking them down, thus fulfilling his role as provider. Still, at other times, a lion roars to reunite scattered pride members, thus fulfilling his role as leader over his own.

Of all the reasons that a lion roars, one of them stands out: A lion roars to declare domination.

Lions are nomadic animals at times because of the need to hunt migratory prey and will roar outside their own territory, or domain. But they do this infrequently, only in situations of extreme need or intentional aggression. Yet when a lion is in his own territory within his own domain, he will roar multiple times over the course of several hours, usually at night and at the height of pride vulnerability. The lion roars as if to communicate: I have dominion over this land. I have dominion over this pride. I am protecting, providing, leading, and partnering in it. This is my domain.

**Not only does the lion's roar send the message of dominion to any other cats that might be looking to enter his land, but it also sends a reassuring sound of security to the members of the lion's pride.** What the lion has declared through his roar is that, as ruler, he is responsible. In his dominion, he has the authority to call the shots for whatever goes on within it. If he calls the shots well, he will keep this land and he will keep his pride. In fact, if he calls them well, he will position himself to expand his land and expand his pride.

## **Yet if a lion does not protect his domain, another lion will take what he has.**

When was the last time that the reassuring strength of our roar was not only heard but also let by all those within our sphere of influence and under our care? And when was the last time that the force of our roar firmly warded off all those seeking to devour that which is within our domain?

To express our authority within our domain, we must roar. It is not an option. We must **protect, provide, lead, and partner** well in the areas of our influence. We must also declare our dominion by responsibly exercising our role within it. We must occupy the gates within our sphere of authority. Matthew 16:18, "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell **shall not prevail** against it."

### I. Lost and found.

By Tony Evans: "On a recent walk by the lost and found area at my church in Dallas, Texas, I noticed that the lost and found area seemed to be growing. Either people don't know that they have lost something, or they don't care about whatever it is that has been lost. Most of the things, by the way, in our lost and found are Bibles. These Bibles have sat there for an inordinate amount of time unclaimed, and therefore, unused."

#### A. Reclaim the power of the Word of God in our lives.

##### 1. Reasons so few men are actually going back to reclaim.

- a. Don't know that we have lost it.
- b. We don't realize the full value of what we have misplaced.
- c. Do not know where to find it.

##### 2. Ruled by circumstances, the people around us, our problems, and the challenges we face.

### II. Reclaiming manhood.

#### A. Scripture tells us that we have an enormous responsibility.

- 1. To rule.
- 2. To manage.
- 3. **We have the authority to influence and impact everything within our realm.**

So many of the casualties in the body of Christ occur when a man does not comprehend, grab, and live out our God-given authority through our right and responsibility to rule.

#### B. Examining the foundational theology.

1. Adam was first placed in a garden that God entrusted to him to guard, each of us has our own garden, or domain, that God has placed in our care.

2. WE have an area of influence.

3. Comprehend our authority as a kingdom man.

C. God said.

1. God has created a spectacular Earth with all of the nuances and idiosyncrasies necessary for life to be lived out to its fullest.

2. On the sixth day, God spoke forth his crowning achievement—man. About man, we read that first.

a. “God said...” Genesis 1:26, “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’”

b. Then, “God created...” Genesis 1:27, “So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

c. And next, “God blessed...” Genesis 1:28, “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

**Everything related to man in the creation text is directly connected to God and His plan for humankind. God said, God created it, and God blessed it.**

3. In Genesis 1:26 we read, “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, and let them rule.’”

4. **Man is an image-bearer of God in that he is responsible to mirror God’s character and ways. Instead of the “Made in America” stamp, humankind received the “Made in God’s Image” stamp.**

Example. Like an automobile built in an assembly plant reflects the nature, purpose, and intention of its creator, humankind has been designed to reflect our Creator. The trucks that come out of the manufacturing plant in Henry Ford’s hometown of Dearborn, Michigan, not only carry his name, but also his vision. A truck rolls off of that line having been “Built Ford Tough.” Likewise, as men made in the image of God, each of us has been “Built God Tough.” So much so that God himself willingly entrusted the managerial rulership on Earth to us.

III. Delegates in charge.

Introduction.

When God created man in His image, He delegated the responsibility of caring for and managing His creation. Until that time, God did all of the work. He separated the water from the land, formed the light, grew the plants, placed the stars in the sky, along with everything else. Up until then, God took

care of it all through His spoken Word. Yet, on the sixth day, when God created man, He turned over the running, ruling, and stewardship of the earth to hands of man. God endowed humankind with both the opportunity and the responsibility for managing what He had made. When God created man, He gave a mandate—the dominion mandate. The dominion mandate, “Let them rule,” set man’s rulership, or management, in place over what God had created.

A. God willing pulled back His direct control over the earth while simultaneously delegating that direct control to humankind for managing the affairs of history.

**Important: Now, before we go any further, I want to make a clear distinction between what the Scripture is talking about and what deism claims. Deism is a belief system that hold that God created the world and then He wound up disappearing somewhere to let it unwind and unravel in the hands of man. That is not what the Scripture says. God has not given up His ownership. Psalm 24:1 unequivocally tells us, “A Psalm of David. The earth *is* the LORD’s, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.”**

1. God has not turned over absolute ownership of the earth to humankind.
2. He has released the managerial responsibility for ruling it.
3. While God retains absolute sovereign authority and ownership, He has delegated relative authority to man with sphere of influence, or dominion, for each man.

Example: The bank may own the house we live in, but it is our responsibility to pay a monthly mortgage on the house that we say we “own,” as well as to maintain it, for good or for bad. Now, most people know how great it feels to walk into a house that we just purchased and thing to ourselves, *I own this house*. But the truth is, in most cases, the bank owns that house.

The bank does not get involved with everyday duties of running our house—that is our responsibility. Neither does the bank force us to clean our house nor prevent us from having a junky one. That is up to us. Yet, similarly, the bank does not give up ultimate ownership of the house just because we are the ones living in it and managing it. If we do not make our payments, we will be the one who faces the consequences of losing that house.

- B. God is the ultimate owner.
1. He has delegated the responsibility to manage it without having delegated His sovereignty over and within it.
  2. Our decisions directly affect the quality of life within our sphere.

God didn’t stop Adam from eating the fruit, but He controlled the consequences when Adam did eat the fruit, thus limiting Adam’s dominion form what it had originally been ordained to be.

What Satan did in trying to increase his influence on earth has cast a shadow on man’s legitimate God-ordained right to rule. Satan’s shadow is made up of the stained hues of complacency and insignificance. He has done this in an attempt to handcuff believers from carrying out the responsibilities given to them and to keep them from racing to the “lost and found” to reclaim the authority of the position under God.

## C. David.

1. Psalm 8:3-6, "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* under his feet,"

2. David not only praises God for the greatness of His creation, but also for the glory and majesty that He has given to man, as well as man's rule.

3. God has placed a crown on the head of every man, thereby calling him majestic.

a. We are majestic.

b. We are royalty.

c. We are awesome.

d. **We are created to be a kingdom man.**

AS long as we stop thinking like royalty, we stop acting like royalty. AS long as we think we are nobody, or that we do not matter and have no say, we keep acting like we are nobody, or that we do not matter and that we have no say. As a result, Satan can keep kingdom men from advancing the kingdom of God as we ought to advance; he lulls those who have been given the legitimate authority to advance into believing that they not only lack significance, but also dominion and authority.

Yet we have been crowned with majesty in God's kingdom. It is up to us to use the rights that come with the majesty that we have been given. While God is the sovereign and absolute King. He has given us an area to rule in His name, by His rules, and in His image as a kingdom man. We are a reflection of God, and image-bearer. We get to call the shots, for good or for bad, and how we call them will determine how chaotic or productive our *garden* becomes. God has placed us in a garden. He has given us the dominion mandate. He has said, "Let them rule..."

Closing, please read.

God has a plan for us. A specific plan. One thing to do to discover that specific plan is to examine our passions, abilities, personality, and experiences, then uncover where those four converge. This will help to reveal the plan God has designed for us.

AS a man, we have a charge to keep and a domain to rule. Like the lion's roar that reaches up to five miles declaring his dominion, we have a specific realm God has authorized us to rule. It may not be a physical location as much as it is a sphere of influence. How well we call the shots while ruling our world will determine how much world we get to rule.

## Lesson 5

## I. Authorized to rule.

A. Exodus 7:1&2, “So the LORD said to Moses: “See, I have made you *as* God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. “You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land.”

1. God told Moses that He was going to make him “as God to Pharaoh.”
2. When God sends someone into the domain that He has declared for him to rule, God empowers.
3. God didn’t make Moses *be* God, but He made Moses “*as God to Pharaoh*.”
4. God designated Moses as His chosen representative to exercise delegated authority.

It doesn’t matter what opposition we face as men—it doesn’t matter how big the pharaohs are. If we are in the garden—the domain—where God has placed us, He will give us the power to rule with authority to advance His kingdom.

## B. Accept the role.

1. God won’t force us to rule.
2. Moses could have abdicated his right to rule out of fear or just plain complacency.
3. David.
  - a. He faced his own “Pharaoh.”
  - b. Goliath from Gath.
  - c. 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 21:20, “Yet again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of *great* stature, who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number; and he also was born to the giant.”
  - d. Deuteronomy 3:11, “For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of the giants Indeed his bedstead *was* an iron bedstead. (*Is* it not in Rabbah of the people of Ammon?) Nine cubits *is* its length and four cubits its width, according to the standard cubit.”
  - e. Numbers 13:32&33, “And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men of *great* stature. “There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

**It is highly probable that Goliath come from this rare species, one of a dying breed of giants whose reputation was enough to keep an enemy at bay and whose looming presence dominated the landscape.**

**Yet when David approached Goliath, he saw much more than a giant. At half Goliath's size, David only had to look straight ahead to be reminded of a whole lot more about this man, because David's vantage point reminded him that Goliath had not been circumcised; he had no covenant with God.**

C. The right angle.

1. Perspective is never just what we see. Perspective is how we view what we see.
2. Perspective is a key tool in the hands of a kingdom man.

The Israelites saw the same giant that David saw; they just didn't see the giant the same way. The Israelites looked at his size, strength, and body structure. David looked straight ahead at a very critical reality: *Goliath had not been circumcised*. "Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?" (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 17:26).

Everyone else had seen how large the giant loomed, but David saw something more important. The giant hadn't been to the doctor. NO circumcision only could mean one thing—no covering. Circumcision was a ritual of the covenant between God and His people. All males in Israel were circumcised on the eighth day to signify that they belonged to this covenant and to position themselves under its provision, power, and covering.

3. David accessed God's authority to defeat a giant twice his size.

D. And our decision?

1. Many men have, unfortunately, given away their spiritual authority because they lack a kingdom perspective.

2. They examined the situation, saw the size of the challenge, or looked at their own inadequacies, and gave up—**BUT NOT US**.

3. In so doing, authority over that situation at work, that situation in the home, that problem, that addiction, that ambition, or that vision was aborted.

4. Authority to rule should be guarded and managed.

5. Even though the battle was the Lord's, David still had to sling the stone.

Remember what happened when Abraham was asked to sacrifice his son, Isaac, on the altar (Genesis 22). The substitute sacrificial ram was in the bush all along, but the angel did not reveal the ram to Abraham until Abraham raised the knife in obedience to God's command to sacrifice his son.

6. God never forces us to rule.

a. He has provided us with everything that is necessary to maximize our own life and everyone else's life withing our sphere of influence.

b. We are not merely a bunch of dirt thrown together to exist for a few decades and then die.

7. God has turned over the operation and carrying out of His plan, within prescribed boundaries to us.

II. Touching heaven, changing earth.

Introduction:

It doesn't matter how much money we have when we die, how many people know our name, or what position we held. If we never got around to doing and being what our destiny is, then all we were was a successful failure. **Success means arriving at God's prescribed destination for us while having the capacity to experience, enjoy, and extend His goodness in our lives.**

We have a destination. We have a destiny that God has ordained for us and offers to us. We are not just here to take up space, water the lawn, and watch television. We are here for more. We are here to rule—and to rule well.

Adam's fumble would not only affect his relationship, but also his location. **It would not only affect his career, but also his children to come.**

**With Christ's death on the cross, God removed the bullets and "rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son" (Colossians 1:13)**

A. Stand against the enemy: What we believe about authority makes an enormous difference in how we respond.

B. Authority.

1. There are two major Greek words meaning authority used in the Bible: *dynamis* and *exousia*.

a. *Dynamis* (also *dunamis*), is best translated into English as a generic term for power. *Dunamis* power is like a loaded gun. In the hand of a policeman, it represents legitimate power, but in the hand of a criminal, it is illegitimate. The gun remains the same, but the uses of its power changes.

b. It is not *dunamis* that Jesus speaks of in Matthew 28:18, it is *exousia*. *Exousia* is the power of our elected officials to govern us or the power of a policeman to arrest a criminal.

For example, the players on a football field are bigger, tougher, stronger, and can overpower any of the referees calling the game, but since the players have only *dunamis*, they are overpowered by the referees' *exousia*. *Exousia* is legal power. When Jesus said that all authority—all *exousia*—had been given to Him, He was saying He had legal, rightful power. Essentially, He was saying that HE had the authority with the power.

2. Men, we are a subject in God's kingdom.

3. We don't need to live playing defense or being afraid.



4. Jesus has declared that all authority has been given to Him, and in Him, as a believer, *we have been made complete*.

5. We are *seated with Him* where He rules in the *heavenly places*.

6. Satan wants to get us out of alignment and the covering that comes with aligning ourselves under the headship of Jesus Christ.

7. **As long as we are in alignment, men, we have access to all the *exousia* we need to do all that God has designed us to do.**

Yue we all know that it is possible to have legal rights that we do not use. It is possible to have something legislated that is never enforced. It is possible to be free but still act like a slave. It is even possible to be delivered but still act like a prisoner of spiritual war simply because we have not put action to what has been legalized. The cross of Jesus Christ has legalized our authority to carry our dominion, but for that which is legalized to put into action, **it must first be realized**.

III. Keys to claiming our territory.

Introduction: God did not turn over total autonomy, but He did supply relative autonomy.

The idea of relative autonomy is simply that the degree to which humankind ruled under the authority of God is the same degree that he would receive the blessings and the power of God. This is similar to a man who walks within the vicinity of the motion detector lighting system receiving the light. Likewise, the degree to which humankind ruled independently of God is the degree that the power would be withheld. Humankind would still be allowed to rule, but he would rule within a world of darkness and thus be faced with the repercussions of living without spiritual power.

So many men are waiting on God to move in regard to our problems, issues, or challenges, or in regard to our families, careers, or vision, yet God has already supplied all that is needed for us to rule. He is waiting on us to walk only in His ways so that HE can turn on His power. God is waiting until He sees movement. He has a moving target. Enacting the influence of dominion requires that we do something with the authority Christ has given us.

A. Rule number one: Leave the past behind.

Joshua 1:1&2, "After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 'Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.'"

If God is going to take us where He wants us to go, we can't be tethered to where we have been. A crucial principle for advancing God's kingdom as kingdom man is that if we are going to move ahead, we are going to have to let go of the past.

All of us have pasts that involve the good, the bad, and the ugly. We can look back over our shoulder and see the good things that have happened, the bad things that we have done, and the ugly things that

others have done to us. But that was yesterday. That was the past. We have to let it go. We can learn from yesterday; just don't live in it. Because if we live in yesterday, then we are going to kill tomorrow.

1. Don't live our lives in the rearview mirror.
- 2.. Where we are going ought to be bigger than where we have been.
3. Yesterday's victories will not carry us through today. Neither should yesterday's defeats dominated tomorrow.
4. **If Satan can keep us looking back, then he can keep us from moving forward.**

B. Rule number two: Seize our spiritual inheritance.

Joshua 1:2-4, ""Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. "From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory."

1. God had already staked out Joshua's inheritance.
2. God has already given us everything that we are destined to have.

**Ephesians 1:3 tells us, "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,"**

3. Our job is to draw it down.
4. **What God says in the invisible spiritual realm get pulled down through faith.**
5. Faith always involves our feet.
6. Kingdom authority meant Joshua had to actually go get it. Joshua had to do

something.

God has an inheritance and destiny for us as well. But one reason we may not have experienced it yet is because our feet have not marched in tune with faith. God said to Joshua, "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you..." When God gave the dominion mandate to humankind saying, "Let them rule," He gave access to His heavenly rule being executed by man on earth. Yet we all know that just because something is legalized does not mean that it has come into reality. What has been made available in eternity must be brought down into time. **Me, God can give us something, yet we still do not have it simply because we did not walk on it—we did not go get it.**

There is a primitive view of faith in God that implies that a man sits down and does nothing, waiting on God to do everything. But actual faith is just the opposite. Faith means that we believe God so much that we are going to act on what He says. **Faith is when we act as if God is telling the truth.** Since Joshua believed God had given him the e land, he walked in and claimed it.

7. **Most of the time, God works through the very ordinary act of obeying whatever He has said to do.**

Example from Tony Evans

Not too long ago a member of our church sent me a care package for Clergy Appreciation Month. This member called to let me know that I should be expecting a package. A few days later, I got a note on my door from the mailman saying that the local post office had my package. It was my gift. My name was on it. But unless I took the steps to go get it, I would never have received it

On a larger scale, I am reminded of the time when I began our church over thirty-five years ago. As I mentioned earlier, the church had gone from meeting in my home to meeting in an apartment facility, to eventually meeting at a public school. After a number of months at the public school, the school administrators informed us that our time was about to run out. With only one hundred members at that time, we didn't have much of a budget with which to find a new location. Yet a little A-frame chapel came available for sale on Camp Wisdom Road in Dallas, and after much prayer and searching, I got a deep sense in my spirit that God had said He was giving us that building.

But the church selling the property wanted \$200,000 for it. That might as well have been \$2,000,000 to us since we had nothing. When I drove there one day to stand before it and ask God to give us the chapel, my eyes kept drifting beyond the small A-frame building. What continued to catch my attention was the more than one hundred acres of nearly all grass and trees surrounding it. Keep in mind that we didn't even have enough money for the chapel. Yet at that point, I believed God was making it clear to me that He planned to give us more than just the chapel—He was giving us all of the land surrounding it. I can't explain it. It was just one of those moments when "you know that you know" it is from God. One way He confirmed this to me was through time I had previously spent in His Word; He kept bringing to my mind the words found in Joshua 1, "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you..."

So, I started treading.

I literally walked from the A-frame building all the way up to the next intersection, nearly half of a mile. Then I crossed to the other side of the street and walked back down. All the while, I prayed, "Lord, please don't just give us that little chapel for a church to use for your kingdom and your glory, God—but give us everything on both sides of the street." I was just a young pastor leading an urban church of one hundred people in the days before the term *megachurch* had even been invented. Yet so strong was my belief that God had given us that land that I walked every inch of the streets bordering it. I claimed it before I got because I believed that God had given it. After thirty-five years, we now own all of the land that I walked on, including that little A-frame chapel. God has given us this land not only for a church, but also for one of the largest church-based community outreach programs in the country, which now serves as a model for training other churches through our National Church Adopt-A-School Initiative ministry.

- 8. **Walk by faith, not to just talk by faith.**
- 9. Faith always involves our feet.
- 10. God will let us have only what we claim.

# 11. We must claim that which God has already provided.

The Christian life is not a video game to played in virtual reality. It is a battle of flesh and blood. We are combatants in a real, tangible war. Paul told us, "Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which your called..." (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:12). The Greek word, *epilamebanomai*, translated into *take hold* literally means to seize. Paul was writing to Timothy, a believer, and telling him that he is to *seize* all that is contained within his salvation. Far too often, it seems that men view the Christian life as a passive life they must live rather than as a gateway to the opportunity to conquer life's challenges. God has already given us, as a follower of Jesus Christ, all that He has stored up for us as His redeemed child, but we must seize it. We must go get it. Grab it, and do not let it go. There is an enemy whose goal in this war is to keep us from all that God has provide for us. To get, we will need to push past him.

## IV. Focus on God, not people

### Introduction:

God knew that once Joshua put the past behind him, got up, and started going into the Promised Land that he was going to face a large number of enemies whose goal would be to stop him from reaching his destination. That is why God said in Joshua 1:5-7, "No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. "Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go."

A. Many of us have been stopped from pursuing the fullness of God' purpose in our lives because of people.

B. People, on their day, are still jus people. **And God is still God.**

God told Joshua that no matter how large the Canaanites towered over them or how deep the Hittites growled, that no man would be able to stand before Joshua to block him from getting where God said Joshua was going to go. Gold knows how to handle the people who are in the way if He can just get us to walk on the property. That doesn't mean to disrespect people or to dishonor them; it just means we do not need to be intimidated by them. There is only one God, and they are not Him. **While man may have a say, he does not the final say.** While our boss may have a thought, our boss does not have the final thought. While the people opposing us may have a word, it never the last word—unless we let it be the las word because we stop walking in faith.

## V. Stay tied to God's Word.

A. Joshua was a fighter.

B. Yet God made it clear to Joshua before Joshua ever took one step toward his destination that this battle was God's.

Joshua 1:8&9, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go.”

1. Before the battle even began, God reminded Joshua to stay tied to His Word.
2. He reminded Joshua that strength was found in God’s presence with Joshua and not in Joshua’s plan.

3. **The only guarantee of success is when we seek God’s way—when we seek God.**

4. God’s prescription for success is no different for us today.
5. 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 26:5, “He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.”
  - a. Not too long after this verse, Uzziah’s heart swelled with pride.
  - b. He turned away from God’s ways.
  - c. 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 26:16-21, “But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to *his* destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. So Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him were eighty priests of the LORD—valiant men. And they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, “*It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You shall have no honor from the LORD God.*” Then Uzziah became furious; and he *had* a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar. And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he *was* leprous; so they thrust him out of that place. Indeed, he also hurried to get out because the LORD had struck him. King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house, because he was a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD. Then Jotham his son *was* over the king’s house, judging the people of the land.”—He was a leper for the remainder of his life.

Conclusion:

Living a successful life as a child of the King is not rocket science, men. God doesn’t hide the path toward living out our destiny in some obscure location tucked away in some well-guarded vault in the Amazon. It boils down to seeking the will and ways of the King. It’s not much different than what we would find in an earthy kingdom.

The nature of a kingdom assumes a king. It assumes a ruler. The nature of a king assumes he rules. The more God is in the ruler role of our lives, the more we will see Him opening doors. And we will know that it is God opening the doors because He will do things that we didn’t even know He was going to do. Or He will do what we asked Him to do, but He will do it in a way that we never expected. While God’s precepts and principles are predictable, God’s ways are unpredictable.

God says in Isaiah 55:9-11, "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways,  
And My thoughts than your thoughts. "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,  
And do not return there,  
But water the earth,  
And make it bring forth and bud,  
That it may give seed to the sower  
And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;  
It shall not return to Me void,  
But it shall accomplish what I please,  
And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it."

## Lesson 6

### A Kingdom Man and His Family Life

#### Introduction”

After writing about a man’s personal life in Psalm 128, David moved to a man’s family life. Verses 3&4 says, “Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD.”

A man’s decision to marry a woman and begin a family is one of the most important decisions he will ever make. Although marriage frequently doesn’t, it ought to come only under the condition of great thought, readiness and most importantly, prayer.

Psalm 128 moves first from the individual to the family, which represents the divine order of creation. As we looked at earlier, God created Adam first and gave him the responsibility of personal governance and guidelines before giving Eve to him. Adam had to first learn and establish his individual authority before expanding it to a family. Another important element to note is that **David progresses to the family in Psalm 128 before he writes about the church and the community.** This is because before God ever created church or civil government, He created the institution of the family.

There are very few problems in our culture today that you cannot trace directly back to the breakdown of the family. If the family functions according to God’s kingdom principles, because the individuals within it are functioning according to God’s kingdom principle, then it follows that both the church and society will function reflectively.

As we saw earlier, the creation of humankind was so man would be an image-bearer of God himself. The purpose of being fruitful and multiplying to fill the earth was not just to fill the earth with people, but it was also to fill the earth with image-bearers. The goal of the family, then, is the replication of the image of God in history rather than to simply form a happy place to call home. The purpose of children is not merely to have look-a-likes in your ancestral line, but to produce children who will reflect the image of God throughout the world.

In establishing the kingdom institution of the family, God created the expansion of His rule in history. That is precisely why Satan is trying to destroy the family. **If Satan can destroy the family, he can destroy the expansion of God’s kingdom rule.**

## Whoever owns the family owns the future.

The problem in legalizing gay marriages is not entirely a problem of homosexuality. The primary problem is the redefinition of the family away from its divine design. In redefining the family, Satan is attempting to set up a rival kingdom that undermines God’s purpose for the home. In warping the view of manhood, Satan is doing the same thing he tried to do when he sought to have all of the baby boys killed when Jesus was born. By getting rid of the men when they were boys, he attempted to kill the future. Men, our role is critical, and Satan’s primary goal is to keep us from performing it according to God’s kingdom principles.

I. Covenant for life.

A. Not a contract, but a covenant.

1. Marriage is a covenantal union designed by God to increase the capacity of both partners to carry out their divine purpose for advancing God's kingdom.

2. In Malachi, we read about this covenant: Malachi 2:13&14, "And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive *it* with goodwill from your hands. Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been a witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant."

3. A covenant is more than simply some form of a contractual agreement.

a. Spiritually binding relationship made between God and His people that includes certain agreements, benefits, conditions, and outcomes.

b. Examples of these are the covenants God made with:

- Abraham
- Moses
- David
- And the new covenant through Jesus Christ.

### **Marriage is also a covenant**

4. Every covenant always includes three fundamental facets: transcendence (divine existence), hierarchy chain of command), (and ethic (principle).

a. Transcendence simply means that God rules above as sovereign over the covenant.

b. Hierarchy represents the specific order in which the covenantal components and participants are to function.

c. Ethic, which are the rules that govern the operation of the covenant, include three interdependent elements:

- Rules.
- Sanctions.
- And continuity.

When a marriage functions according to the components of a covenant, the blessing of the covenant is the ultimate result. However, when a marriage outside the components of a covenant, the negative consequences attached to the covenant will result. Because marriage is a sacred covenant and not just a social contract, it entails sanctions and continuity that have generation repercussions. A contract is a legal agreement that does not within it a spiritual and divine component, while a covenant engages God in relationship to His kingdom and the spiritual benefits and losses that occur because of that agreement.



B. A fruitful vine (Psalm 128:3, “Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table.”)

1. For a vine to produce fruit, it must first cling.

a. For our wives to be the kingdom woman she was created to be, we must provide a place of security that is so strong and stable that she will not only be able to but also want to, cling to us.

b. Enabling and encouraging her to cling to us, we will keep her from clinging to something else that is not legitimately positioned to put her in a place of personal growth and nurturing.

2. The second thing a vine does to produce fruit is that it climbs.

a. A frustrated or controlled vine, men, will fail to produce any fruit.

b. When a vine is nourished and able to both cling and to climb

3. Then it does the third thing to produce fruit: It clusters.

a. Men, when we operate as a kingdom man, Scripture says that our wives will cling, climb, and cluster in such a way as to produce fruit that is not only beneficial to herself and to us, but also to those within our realms.

4. Our wives *shall be* like a fruitful vine, rather than *is* a fruitful vine.

a. In the home, the ordained order is that it starts with us.

b. She becomes what we name her.

c. If we choose to name her a kingdom woman, she *shall be* a fruitful vine.

**Women were created to respond. The test of a kingdom man is measured by the response of his wife. Has she been named? Is she becoming what that name declares her to be?**

II. Being her savior, sanctifier, and satisfier.

A. Ephesians 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,”

1. Christ loved the church to death.

2. He is to be her savior in the sense that he sacrifices his life for her well-being.

3. How Christ loves the church.

a. First, “(He) gave Himself up for her” (Ephesians 5:25).

b. Jesus’ sacrifice tells husbands what it means to love.

c. We love by choice, not by feeling.

Loving our wives today has little to do with whether we feel like being loving today. Biblical love focuses on the need of the person being loved, not necessarily on the emotions or wants of the one who is loving. **It is righteously and passionately pursuing the well-being of the other, even if that comes at personal cost or sacrifice.**

B. Husbands are to sanctify his wife. Ephesians 5:26, “that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,”

1. To sanctify something means to set it apart as special and unique.
2. A man sanctifies his wife by providing a place where she is safe to grow and develop into the creation God made her to be.
3. ***When we married our wives, we didn’t marry just her, but we also married her history.***
4. Sanctification is the process of taking someone from where they are into what they ought to be.
5. If she has never known security or never had a man provide a stable place for her, she may be hesitant to submit to us as her husband.
6. Through sanctification, we are able to demonstrate to our wives what it means to be covered by a kingdom man—not a perfect man, but a kingdom man who has her best interests at heart and who loves her even to the point of sacrificing his own needs and wants to provide that love.

C. A kingdom man satisfies his wife. Ephesians 5:28&29, “So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church.”

1. Whatever we do for ourselves, we ought to do for her.
2. We are to treat her like we treat our own bodies.
3. **We are to think in terms of two and never in terms of one.**
4. It is in our best interest, and hers, to satisfy our wives emotionally, spiritually, and physically.
5. If she can respond to us spiritually because we are taking spiritual responsibility, then her soul will adapt to respond to us personally.
6. When she responds with her soul, she will respond with her body.

**What men often want is their wife to respond with her body when her soul is out of sync. And so, sex isn’t engaging, exciting, or dynamic, and he thinks that Victoria’s Secret is going to solve the problem. Victoria’s Secret can’t solve that. This is an issue of the soul. But we don’t heal the soul by healing the soul. We heal the soul by creating spiritual oneness.**

7. The first step in learning how to satisfy our wives is in understanding her.
  - a. Study her.

- b. Get to know her.
- c. What inspires her.

So many men neglect the greatest gift they have been given in life—their wife—and they do it to their own detriment. Scripture even tells us that if we do not live as a kingdom husband, even our prayers will be hindered. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:7, “Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”

D. A wife who has been given the environment to flourish as a fruitful vine first flourishes with the home.

- 1. As we see in Proverbs 31, she does much outside of the home as well.
  - a. She is a businesswoman.
  - b. She has her own ministry looking after the poor.
  - c. She takes care of herself, making sure she looks good and dressing in purple.
  - d. Her children are not lacking.
  - e. Her husband is praised in the gates because **everything she does outside of the home complements the priority of the home.**

#### MEN, DON'T SKIP THIS

One thing that we can do as husband to give our wives the best environment in which to flourish is to be intentional about complimenting her. Let her know on a daily basis that she is valued—and why. A woman has unique insight and perception, so just telling her that she has value to us will probably not be enough to satisfy her need to be cherished. She wants to know what it is about her that we value—what is it that is special within her that you enjoy and appreciate.

Beyond that, and what every man should already be doing, is pray regularly with our wives. Pray with her often. Pray about what is on her mind, but also pray for her. Let her hear us praying for her and give her the added security in knowing that we are seeking God on her behalf and on behalf of our union in marriage. This will probably be awkward at first, but it gets easier and it produces a fruitful home.

III. Olive plants.

Psalm 128:3, “Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table.”

Introduction:

When we fear the Lord and walk in His ways, and when our wives are fruitful vines in our home, our children will be like “olive plants around your table.” They won’t be olive trees because an olive tree typically takes fifteen or more years to fully develop, but they will be olive plants responding to what we give them.

A. The olive plant, if it is nurtured correctly, will then become an olive tree that can produce for over 2,000 years.

1. As a kingdom man, one of the greatest things we can offer our children is **modeling ourselves as an olive tree with deep roots of stability.**

Example from Tony Evans

My mother and father still live in the same house that I grew up in. The area was a working-class neighborhood before, but now it has devolved into such a place that police cameras are on every corner to catch the drug deals going on. One time I was sitting on the porch with my kids while we were visiting, and a policeman caught a drug deal doing on down the street. The policeman wound up chasing the perpetrator right into my parents' front yard, jumping on him, knocking him to the ground, and holding a gun to his head. My kids and I sat there watching the whole thing go down. In fact, the last time I was visiting my parents, while I was driving through their neighborhood, I came across an entire SWAT team of about ten police officers getting ready to make a raid just as the sun was about to come up.

When I mentioned to my dad later that they might want to move now since he is in his 80's and the neighborhood isn't exactly what it used to be, he replied that he wanted to stay because that was his home. Those were his roots. He told me that God has taken care of him this long and that God would weep him through. My dad is rooted. His roots are not just in a location, though. They are rooted in God. In all the years that my father has been a believer in Christ, I have never once seen him waiver from the Word of God. His roots run deep. In modeling for me a life of fruitfulness, which in turn models for my children and grandchildren how to become an olive tree.

Our problem today is not merely a lost generation, but it is the product of a lost generation. We have fathers who never saw their own fathers be a kingdom husband or a kingdom dad. So we have children raising themselves. Or we have children looking to the government to raise them. So our tables have no olive plants around them.

Our tables sit empty.

2. The Jewish father raised his family around the table.

- a. The table was not just a place for eating.
- b. He was convening his family there to lead them.
- c. It was there that he heard of any potential behavior concerns.
- d. It was there that he handed out work responsibilities within the home and checked on whether the duties had been completed.
- e. It was there that the family discussed educational issues and established strategies toward achieving goals.
- f. It was around the table that he learned what peer groups his children were associating with and what information they were putting into their minds.

g. It was there that he poured value and significance into the lives of his children by listening to them and being with them consistently.

3. Fruitful vines and olive plants need consistent nurturing to produce or to grow.

a. Men's schedules are full.

b. Women's schedules are full.

c. Children's schedules are full.

THINK ABOUT IT!

**In failing to prioritize the consistency of the family table—or daily family time whenever we may choose to spend it—we have failed to lead our families well. AS a result, we have a generation of young people who set their consciences to the culture rather than to that which was given to them at the table.**

IV. Future men.

Introduction:

Yet even beyond the table, it is important that we intentionally make ourselves a consistent part of the family. So many men simply pop in on special occasions and then consume themselves with their work, which leaves their wives' and children's hearts left empty. Nothing can fill the home made from the absence of a husband or father. Even the best mother in the world cannot meet the need that children have for the approval and attention of their father.

A. It doesn't have to be fancy, and it doesn't have to be formal, just make it a priority to be with our families.

1. When we put our children ahead of our schedule or needs, it says a lot to them about their value.

2. Men, the time we spend with our families should never be a second thought.

a. Put first things first.

b. If we haven't done it in the past, it is never too late to start today.

3. Family must come first after God.

4. It is how He designed our lives to function.

**When we function according to the principles of His covenantal and transcendent rule, not only are we blessed, but also those within our realms find themselves fruitful and blessed as they become what they were destined to be.**

5. It is our responsibility to pass the covenantal rights and responsibilities to the next generation.

VERY IMPORTANT; PLEASE READ AND MEDITATE:

**Today this role has flipped. Because of the large number of women in influential positions throughout the development of the lives of children—whether in the home, schools, or churches—most boys spend the largest part of their lives with women. First, in his mother’s womb. Next, the babysitters are typically female, as are the nursery workers. And even most of the elementary school and Sunday school teachers are usually female. And while we praise God for the role that females play in our culture and in the church, what is frequently missing in the development of kingdom men is a strong and consistent male presence.**

**When we have an increase in males missing in action in culture, there is an overarching weakening of manhood felt throughout. And because of this, we are at a greater risk of raising the next generation of boys who will grow up to be men just like their mothers. Never underestimate our role as a father. Remember, Dads, that our children’s’ view of God will largely be dependent on their view of us.**

Conclusion:

1. What are some ways that we have “one-on-one:” time with our children?
2. Confession “Today, I will be a kingdom family man.”

## Lesson 7

## A kingdom man and his personal life

## Introduction:

If we are a messed-up men, we are going to contribute to a messed-up family. If we are a messed-up family, we are going to contribute to a messed-up church. If we are a messed-up church, we are going to contribute to a messed-up community. If we are a messed-up community, we are going to contribute to a messed-up state. If we are a messed-up state, we are going to contribute to a messed-up country. If we are a messed-up country, we are going to contribute to a messed-up world.

Therefore, the only way to have a better world made up of better countries composed of better states filled with better communities influenced by better churches inhabited by better families is by becoming better men.

**It starts with us.**

The push to a better world begins with us.

We become better men by aligning ourselves under the comprehensive rule of God over every area of our lives—under God’s kingdom agenda. We do it through choosing not just to be a man, but also a *kingdom* man. By being the man that David wrote about in what has become the benchmark passage for manhood, Psalm 128. No other passage in Scripture so comprehensively covers the kingdom impact of a kingdom man through all four spheres of life, which include the personal, family, church, and community. Psalm 128 is specifically written to men to tell them how they are to function.

It is the mantra of a kingdom man: Psalm 128, “A Song of Ascents. Blessed *is* every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. When you eat the labor of your hands, You *shall be* happy, and *it shall be* well with you. Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you out of Zion, And may you see the good of Jerusalem All the days of your life. Yes, may you see your children’s children. Peace *be* upon Israel!”

In this Psalm, David outlines the life of a kingdom man. He begins with the **personal life** of a man who fears the Lord: “How blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways. When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands, you will be happy, and it will be well with you.”

Then he moves to the **family life** of a kingdom man: “Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, your children like olive plants around your table.”

Next, David talks about the kingdom man in relation to the **church**: “The Lord bless you from Zion.”

And ultimately David concludes with the kingdom man and his **community, including his greater society and his legacy**: “And may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. Indeed, may you see your children’s children. Peace be upon Israel.”

In this one compact yet comprehensive passage, David covers all of the components of a kingdom man in Psalm 128. **First and foremost, the blessing comes when a kingdom man fears the Lord and walks in His ways in his personal life.**

I. It starts with us.

A. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:28, “But let a man examine himself...”

1. “Examine himself.”

2. Although we are called to be “lights” (Matthew 5:14-16), we are also told not to compare ourselves with others (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:12).

B. We are to stay “vertical” not “horizontal.”

II. The blessing of fearing God.

A. Psalm 128 tells us that we will be blessed if we fear the Lord and walk in His ways.

1. Fearing the Lord is to embrace Him from a kneeling position.

2. Making Jesus Lord.

a. He is our savior.

b. He is our friend.

c. He lives in us.

d. Lord: He is in charge.

**Living in the fear of God involves a mind-set that acknowledges His continual presence and that He ought to be taken seriously, especially in light of the reality that our life’s blessings are tied to fearing Him and holding Him in the highest esteem.**

3. Men, that truth ought to affect what we do when no one else is looking—this is integrity.

a. Use of our time.

b. How we handle our money.

c. What we say.

d. How we treat our family, or wife, when no one else is around.

**To fear God means to acknowledge Him as Lord over our lives and align our actions, words, and thoughts accordingly.**

LET’S INVEST TIME NOW IN PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER.



## 1

## Kingdom Woman

## Lesson 1

## Introduction

The core cause of the problems we face in our personal lives, homes, churches, and society is a spiritual one; therefore, the only way to address it is spiritually. We've tried a political, social, economic, and even a religious agenda. It's time for a Kingdom Agenda.

## Definition

The Kingdom agenda can be defined as the visible manifestation of the comprehensive rule of God over every area of life.

## Central Theme

The unifying central theme throughout the Bible is the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom.

Numbers 14:21 – But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.

## Absence of theme

When you do not have that theme, the Bible becomes disconnected stories that are great for inspiration but seem to be unrelated in purpose and direction.

The Bible exists to share God's movement in history toward the establishment and expansion of His kingdom highlighting the connectivity throughout which is the kingdom.

Understanding that increases the relevancy of this several-thousand-year-old manuscript to your day-to-day living, because the Kingdom is not only then, it is now.

The absence of the kingdom's influence in our personal and family lives, churches, and communities has led to a deterioration in our world of immense proportions.

People live segmented, compartmentalized lives because they lack God's Kingdom worldview.

Families disintegrate because they exist for their own satisfaction rather than for the Kingdom.

Churches are limited in the scope of their impact because they fail to comprehend that the goal of the church is not the church itself, but the Kingdom.

Communities have nowhere to turn to find real solutions for real people who have real problems, because the church has become divided, ingrown, and unable to transform the cultural landscape in any relevant way.

## Kingdom Agenda

The Kingdom agenda offers us a way to see and live life with a solid hope by optimizing the solutions of heaven.

When God, and His rule, is no longer the final and authoritative standard under which all else falls, order and hope leave with Him.

But the reverse of that is true as well: As long as you have God, you have hope.

Even if relationships collapse, God will sustain you.

Even if finances dwindle, God will keep you.

Even if dreams die, God will revive you.

Our world needs the King's agenda

Our churches need the King's agenda

Our families need the King's agenda

Kingdom Women

He wants us to be Kingdom women with Kingdom minds set on fulfilling His kingdom's purposes.

He wants us to pray, as Jesus did, "Not my will, but Thy will be done." Because His is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "A woman is like a teabag. You never know how strong it is until it's in hot water."

Sojourner Truth said, "If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again!"

It is only when we align ourselves underneath His comprehensive hand that we will access His full power and authority in all spheres of life.

a. Personal

b. Familial

c. Church

d. Community

Under Him, we touch heaven and change earth.

Questions

What is the core cause of the problems we face in our personal lives, homes, churches and society?

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What is the unifying central theme through the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

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What does the Kingdom agenda offer? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Kingdom Woman

### Lesson 2

#### The Value of a Kingdom Woman

##### The Main Point

Regardless of what the culture says, Kingdom Women are valuable to God.

Story told by Chrystal Evans Hurst – Kingdom Woman. Those words sound like some pretty high stilettos to walk around in all day. The truth of the matter is that I know I'm not that woman. She is someone I strive to become but whose roles and responsibilities seem like a lot to handle. The very definition of a kingdom woman sets a high bar. After all, where is this woman—who is this woman—who regularly and consistently positions herself under and operates according to God's complete rule over her life?.....I desire to be the woman that He created me to be—not the woman whom I think I want to be or the woman the world tells me I should be. It brings me great joy to think of the detailed design and intricate effort that God put forth when making me. I'm so glad that I don't have to aspire to be anyone else other than that woman God wants me to be. Ladies, we all are "God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10). Kingdom woman, those four-inch red heels don't look easy to walk around in all day, but first looks can be deceiving. The right shoe made by the right designer and with the right materials can be not just wearable, but comfortable! God has designed a plan and a purpose for you. You are not just "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14); you are created in the image of a radiant, magnificent God who is full of beauty and splendor. So wear His glory well. Walk on His runway!

Genesis 1:26-27 – And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

God created man out of the dust from the ground. The Hebrew word for God forming man is *yatsar*, which means "to form, as a potter." A pot usually has but one function.

God "made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man" (Genesis 2:22). He created her with His own hands. The Hebrew word used for making woman is *banah*, meaning to "build, as a house, a temple, a city, an altar."

God has given women a diverse makeup that enables them to carry out multiple functions well.

Eve was fashioned laterally with Adam's rib, it was not a top-down formation of dominance or a bottom-up formation of subservience.

Eve was an equally esteemed member of the human race.

##### A Covenant for Dominion

God turned over to men and women the immediate, tangible rule over His creation, while He retains absolute sovereign authority and ownership.

A Kingdom Woman is empowered to make decisions within the sphere of influence that each person has.

These decisions come with blessings or consequences according to His boundaries and laws.

Neglect of Dominion Covenant

People are confused about why they are here on earth because of a culture that has been flirting with hedonism for decades.

A hedonistic worldview promotes the notion that someone's personal destiny exists to advance his or her personal happiness.

Happiness is a benefit – not the goal or driving force of destiny for a Kingdom Woman.

The reason He created women was to advance His kingdom and His glory.

Eve's first calling was to God

Helpmate to Adam—collaborator in the dominion mandate.

If you have no husband, God alone is your purpose – Isaiah 54:5-6 "For your Maker is your husband—the Lord Almighty is his name—the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth. The Lord will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit—a wife who married young, only to be rejected," says your God.

One of the most important truths you need to believe concerns your worth.

You are significant

You are valuable

View yourself according to the value God has given to you.

Ensure that others treat you with dignity.

Proverbs 31 Kingdom Woman

A woman for all seasons of life—not the model of a perfect woman.

Your life flows through different seasons with different time constraints, blessings, and demands.

To try to do all things without being cognizant of the season you are in is the surest way to burnout and even bitterness.

The primary foundation of being a Kingdom Woman is located at the end of Proverbs 32 - "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."

Her reverence determines her actions, thoughts, words, and priorities.

## Questions

Why do kingdom women look at all of the things they aren't--thin, rich, witty, fluent in six biblical languages—instead of looking at themselves as being created in the image of God?

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Are women created in the image of God in the same way that men are created in His image?

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What is the primary purpose of a Kingdom Woman? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Kingdom Woman

### Lesson 3

#### The Making of a Kingdom Woman

##### The Main Point

We are all flawed and dirty with sin, but Jesus goes out of His way to find us anyway.

##### The Samaritan Woman

Samaritans were the underclass, the despised, the second-rate citizens because of intermarriage between Hebrews and Assyrians.

She was also a woman and it was not acceptable for a Jewish man to speak with a woman in public.

Jesus talked to her!

##### Excerpt by Chrystal Evans Hurst—Flawed

A Kingdom woman is not a perfect woman. She is a forgiven woman. She is a woman who has been loved by the Master despite her past, her weaknesses,

or her struggles. She is bold. She is the woman who, because she has nothing left to lose, puts it all on the line to point others to the Giver of Life. The Kingdom Woman does not limit herself to lines drawn by our society across racial, socioeconomic, or cultural lines. She is a woman who recognizes her own depravity, either because she has been on the edge of a pit, fallen into a pit, or wallowed in the mud. She is amazed that Jesus has gone out of His

way to know her by name. And because she is astonished that Jesus did not think her too low or unworthy of salvation, she is grateful.

##### The Widow of Zarephath

Another “outsider” woman God chose to set apart for a good work.

Her actions, thoughts, and decisions made her a woman who caught God’s special attention.

God didn’t go to the “church” to find the woman He was going to use.

Faith depends upon relationship rather than religion.

God chose her and sent a special servant to show His care.

##### Hope

Being a Kingdom Woman isn’t summed up on just going to church more or doing more good things. It’s about connecting with the One who gives hope.

A key aspect of your life as a Kingdom Woman is in how you view and respond to Jesus.

Is He merely attached to a ritual or a routine—that of religion or do you view Him as a real Person who longs to have a relationship with you?

Is He a good God or is He waiting for you to make one mistake and cut you off?

For a Kingdom Woman to experience spiritual victory or relief from whatever may keep her head or heart down, she has to go to Jesus.

Distraction called Discouragement

Lost Hope

Listen to Jesus

He works healing in four ways

He can supernaturally heal you.

He can use human means to remedy your condition.

He can give you strength to handle your condition until He corrects it.

He can enable you to persevere through the pain on earth until your full healing is made manifest in Heaven.

As a Kingdom Woman, you have a right to fully experience your destiny. You do not have to live doomed to disappointment.

He can enable you to persevere through the pain on earth until your full healing is made manifest in Heaven.

As a Kingdom Woman, you have a right to fully experience your destiny. You do not have to live doomed to disappointment.

Questions

Which woman do you relate to more: the widow or the woman at the well?

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What is the purpose of telling other people about the good things God has done in their lives?

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Do you believe Jesus gives you the same opportunity for time and attention as He gave to the Samaritan woman? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Kingdom Woman

### Lesson 4

#### The Refining of a Kingdom Woman

##### The Main Point

After God finds a Kingdom Woman, He will refine her.

John 4:4-26—The Woman at the Well

Jesus offered her living water

Water that would satisfy

Water that came from a Man who knew about her stained life and wanted to give her a gift from God anyway.

The Samaritan woman wanted the gift

She wanted this living water so badly that she was willing to let Jesus call her out on her lifestyle (verses 16-19).

She desired this living water so much that she sought to understand the difference between religion and a personal relationship with Christ (verses 20-26).

The Samaritan woman needed living water.

With eager abandon she left her water pot at the well and ran to tell other people about this man who offered her life (verses 28-30).

They believed the woman branded as an outcast.

First because of her word (verse 39).

Second because they experienced Jesus for themselves (verse 42).

God used the woman from Samaria to impact her entire community.

Evangelistically

Many believed because of the woman's testimony.

When the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay and He stayed there two days.

Many more believed because of His word.

Socially

She became the impetus to bring together two diverse racial groups.

She became the gateway through which Jesus came and stayed among the people in her community.

God can and will use anyone for His kingdom purposes when that person responds to His truth.

A Kingdom Woman is willing to abandon her own agenda, plans, and hang-ups to act on what God says.

It's not about your perfection.

Jesus Christ has covered our transgressions with His blood and His sacrifice for you and me on the cross.

The time is now to respond to the call of God on your life.

You don't need to wait until your family is perfect.

Spiritual sainthood is not required.

Denominational divides are not a valid excuse for denying others God's love.

You are more than your past, the depth of your pain, or the number of your problems.

You are who God says you are.

You can do what God says you can do.

You can have what He says you can have.

The Samaritan woman didn't have it all together, but she met a man who did. Jesus offered her a way to get her life together by relying on Him.

God wants to use you.

Your witness could be the very key to someone in your community seeing Christ and sometimes you may have to use words.

#### Questions

How did Jesus refine the Samaritan woman's priorities? Explain the difference between knowing who Jesus is and knowing Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_

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Why must we admit our sins and shortcomings before God can use us? \_\_\_\_

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Why is it important to do ministry or share your testimony even when you don't feel worthy? At what point does a woman become refined enough to share what she knows about Jesus?

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## Kingdom Woman

## Lesson 5

## The Hope of a Kingdom Woman

## The Main Point

Jesus is the source of hope for a Kingdom Woman.

There's a beautiful story about a beautiful lady. Her name was Cinderella. But Cinderella felt ugly. She lived with a wicked stepmother and two equally wicked stepsisters. They made Cinderella their slave. Now, she was beautiful, but she didn't think about herself as beautiful, because of the influence of a wicked environment that put her down, messed her over, and reduced her to nothing. The problem with Cinderella was that she was stuck there. She was locked in the situation, and for a long time she could not get out of it.

A lot of women today are living like Cinderella.

Influenced by a wicked stepmother—the Devil.

Influenced by two wicked stepsisters—the world and the flesh.

Maybe you thought you would be further along than you are right now.

Maybe you had a brighter dream for how your family, career or relationships would be.

Maybe you even met the Prince of Peace, and He saved you some time ago, but you have found yourself again in bondage.

Emotional bondage

Spiritual bondage

Physical bondage

Unlike Cinderella's prince, Jesus knows right where you are.

He knows how long you've been there.

He has a way out of any hopelessness you may feel.

He wants to take you out of the bondage and let you live in the freedom of His presence and provision

A lot of us have given up on God.

We have counted the years when it seems our prayers have not been answered.

We have determined it's too late.

We have stopped hoping.

Luke 13:11 “A woman was there (in the synagogue) who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all.”

Because of her physical position, she could never fully see things as they really were.

Her perception not only of herself, but also of the world around her was distorted.

Her issue was not just one of health, but it had become one of habit simply because it had gone on for so long.

While this woman’s issue was physical , many trials can force your head or heart downward either emotionally or spiritually.

1. It could be something your dad said or did, or even your mom.
2. It could be something an unthinking sibling might have done or                      said that has kept you emotionally crippled for so long.
3. It could even be a spouse, friends, or people at work who have mislabeled you and held you back from your destiny as a Kingdom Woman.

Being a Kingdom Woman isn’t summed up in just going to church more or doing more good things. It’s about connecting with the One who gives hope.

The lady who couldn’t straighten up was in the synagogue—in church.

1. The system of religion, in and of itself, didn’t heal her.
2. She had learned how to settle for just getting by.

You can go to church and not meet Jesus.

For eighteen years, religion had dealt with the fruit of her issue.

Jesus went directly to the root of the matter—she had been bound by Satan (verse 16).

- a. Her issue was not the issue
- b. The issue went deeper than what she physically and emotionally faced.

If the problem is caused by the enemy, a doctor can’t solve it.

1. A sermon or a song can’t solve it.
2. Neither can it be solved by talking to friends, drowned by drinking too much, nor covered by retail therapy that you really can’t afford.

If the problem is spiritual in nature, then it needs a spiritual solution.

1. Not a religious solution
2. Not a twelve-step program
3. Not talking to your friends all the time about it

#### 4. Not a New Year's resolution

If something in your life won't seem to lift, there is a spiritual root that needs to be addressed.

The woman's solution came suddenly.

Eighteen years of struggling to straighten up was healed immediately.

1. Jesus asked her to do something—come to Him.

a. She had to leave wherever she was standing and come over to Him.

b. She had to make her way to Jesus, in faith, even though she couldn't stand up straight enough to see Him.

For a Kingdom Woman to experience spiritual victory or relief from whatever may keep her head or heart down, she has to go to Jesus.

Jesus disarmed Satan when He died on the cross.

Now He is seated at the right hand of God in the heavenlies.

Jesus has authority over Satan's power.

As a Kingdom Woman, you have a right to fully experience your destiny.

You do not have to live doomed to disappointment or hopelessness.

As a believer in Jesus Christ, you are a child of Abraham (Galatians 2:39)

You can stand tall and walk straight.

#### Questions

Do you believe there's a Prince? How would you describe your relationship with Him?

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What is the one reason we know from the text (Luke 13:30-17) that Jesus called out to this woman and healed her? \_\_\_\_\_

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Tony Evans says "There is a difference between going to church and meeting Jesus at church. You can go to church and nothing happens, but you can meet Jesus and everything happens." Do you agree with those maxims? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Kingdom Woman

### Lesson 6

#### The Legacy of a Kingdom Woman

##### The Main Point

Faithful kingdom women can leave a positive legacy in their home, church, and community.

God wants you to rise to a higher standard. He desires excellence in all you do.

A. In the biblical story of Ruth, Ruth had a mundane job of gleaning to simply get by in life for herself and her mother-in-law, Naomi.

1. She gleaned with excellence
2. All of her life showed excellence.
3. She was rewarded as she became the wife of Boaz, owner of the field she gleaned in, and great-grandmother of King David.

B. Excellence is a spiritual issue.

1. Success has to do with reaching a level that the world recognizes as successful.
2. Success belongs to a few, excellence is available to all.
3. Excellence has to do with God's destiny for you.
  - a. Define your decisions, thoughts, and actions by the highest quality and authenticity you have to offer.

Excellence should be your aim as a Kingdom Woman

Proverbs reminds us that the excellent woman, or excellent wife, is a rare treasure of the highest value: "An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels" (31:10 ESV)

God's excellence is to serve as your model—"Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things" (Isaiah 12:5)

Excellence doesn't mean perfection; it means doing all you can with all you have at that moment.

1. If you are going to live in excellence, you have to forget yesterday. When you carry yesterday further than you ought to, you ruin today, then spoil tomorrow.
2. Learn from yesterday and as Paul said, "forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on...."

Excellence is not a destination; it is a continual process of transformation into who God wants us to be.

1. As we commit to pursue this life, the Father transforms us into the likeness of His Son.
2. When we choose excellence, God gets the glory.

3. When we choose excellence, we benefit from walking in the fullness of His joy on earth and investing in the pleasures of eternity in heaven.

To be excellent is to live in a way that sets you apart as special and unique and draws the attention of others to the glory of God.

Like Ruth, it positions you into the fullest manifestation of your destiny.

A Kingdom Woman knows her true value and shows the reflection of how God sees her.

A Kingdom Woman makes God's standard her own in all that she does.

Much of what comes in the life of a Kingdom Woman will not make the headlines but will leave a legacy to those around you.

Your family needs you.

Your church needs you.

Your community needs you.

The world needs you.

You are an example to others—you have no choice about that. But you do have a choice about what kind of example you'll be.

#### Questions

What people in your life are most likely watching you? \_\_\_\_\_

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Would they say you are living an excellent life? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who gets the glory when you choose to be an excellent example? Explain your answer.

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## Kingdom Woman

### Lesson 7

#### The Potential of a Kingdom Woman

##### The Main Point

The impact or potential a Kingdom woman can have is unlimited.

God's Word is full of stories of women who walked the path of faith and realized their potential. Those women found out that it is worthwhile to trust that God is who He says He is and that He will do what He says He can do.

Like Rahab, believe God to set you free from a lifestyle that does not please Him.

Like Hannah, believe that God hears the guttural longings of your soul.

Like Ruth, believe that God can carry you through devastation and loss so you can dance again.

Like Bathsheba, believe that God's goodness can supersede the consequences of a bad decision.

Like the woman at the well, believe that God can satisfy your deepest thirst.

Like Mary, the woman with the expensive perfume, believe that to offer Jesus the best of everything you are and everything you have is never a worthless pursuit.

Like Mary, the mother of Jesus, believe that God can use regular gals like you and me to deliver great things to the rest of the world or to the mission field within our own homes.

Your potential is the same because that same God is your God: "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands" (Deuteronomy 7:9).

Mary and Martha (Luke 10: 38-42) - Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman names Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Martha took it upon herself to welcome Him and His team for dinner.

Mary began helping but found her way to Jesus' feet.

Martha complained to Jesus asking that he tell Mary to help.

In Jesus' reply, He affirmed that Mary had chosen the better thing.



The things that had distracted Martha were not bad things; however, they were distracting her from Jesus.

#### Priorities

Issues arise because of the overabundance of good things we are trying to accomplish simultaneously.

It is easy to blame God when things get chaotic.

Martha's problem wasn't the Lord or Mary, it was herself.

Jesus' response could have been, "If cooking a banquet is going to keep you away from Me, then a casserole will do."

Martha's busy life kept her from Jesus and also interrupted her intimacy with her sister, Mary.

#### Being a Kingdom Single Woman

Mary and Martha were not connected to a husband or children.

If Mary had needed to tend to her family and children, she might not have experienced the luxury of so much uninterrupted time in Christ's presence.

Being a Christian single is a unique and high calling.

Opportunity to maximize a heavenly perspective on earth.

When you allow heaven to dictate your actions and thoughts, you can become one of the most productive and significant Kingdom women God has available.

a. The moment you become distracted by the idea of singlehood being nonfulfilling—on desiring or chasing after a mate rather than waiting on God's plan for your life (whether or not that includes a mate)—you have let your singlehood get in the way of God's purpose.

When God made Adam, he didn't have a wife, but he had purpose. He was so totally occupied with the purpose God had given him that he didn't notice that he was alone—God noticed.

As a single, you have a purpose, and God has equipped you with the power to live out your calling as a single. God will bring you a mate—as He did with Adam—if that is His will.

a. You do not have to go looking for a mate—focus on your purpose as God's child, His kingdom daughter. And never forget, or settle for less than, your true value.

#### Questions

Do you believe that God can use "regular" Kingdom women to deliver great things to their homes? How about to "the rest of the world"? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why don't we, like Mary, desperately crave time with Jesus? What can you do to open your heart so that He's your first love?

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What are some good things in your life that may distract you from the best things?

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