



## The Announcement PT. IV | We Three Kings | Mark Allen | 12.21.25

### Opening Prayer

**Opening Prayer:** Begin your time together by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and help each person hear what God is saying to them personally.

### Icebreaker

**Icebreaker Question:** When you were a child, what was something you begged your parents for that turned out to be a mistake? What did you learn from that experience?

### Sermon Overview

This message explores three figures from 1 Samuel—Samuel (the man of God), Saul (the man of flesh), and David (the man of faith)—to help us understand what it means to truly make Jesus King of our lives.

### Key Scripture References

- **1 Samuel 3:10** - Samuel's call
- **Micah 6:8** - What God requires
- **1 Samuel 15** - Saul's disobedience
- **1 Samuel 16** - David's anointing
- **Psalms 23** - The Lord is my shepherd
- **Galatians 5:17** - Flesh vs. Spirit

## Discussion Questions:

### Part 1: Samuel - The Man of God

1. **Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10.** Samuel grew up "near the presence of God." How does spending time in God's presence shape who we become? What does that look like practically in your daily life?
2. **Read Micah 6:8.** God requires us to:
  - Do justice
  - Love kindness
  - Walk humbly with God

Which of these three comes most naturally to you? Which is most challenging? Why?

3. Pastor Mark emphasized that we cannot hear God if we don't spend time in His Word. How would you rate your current Bible reading habits? What obstacles keep you from spending more time in Scripture?
4. **Challenge Question:** Pastor Mark said, "Whose voice do you think has more value, yours or God's?" How does your prayer life reflect your answer to that question? Do you spend more time talking or listening?

### Part 2: Saul - The Man of Flesh

5. **Read 1 Samuel 8:6-9.** The Israelites wanted a king instead of having God lead them through judges. In what areas of your life are you tempted to reject God's leadership and do things your own way?
6. Pastor Mark said, "If you beg hard enough for something, God may just let you have it—even if it's not good for you." Can you share an example from your life (or someone you know) where this proved true?
7. **Read 1 Samuel 15:1-3, 9, 22-23.** Saul partially obeyed God's command. Why do you think partial obedience is actually disobedience? Where might you be guilty of partial obedience in your own life?

8. Saul's heart was set on what he wanted, not what God wanted. He flattered with his lips but didn't obey with his life. How can we guard against this kind of hypocrisy in our own walk with God?

### Part 3: David - The Man of Faith

9. **Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.** God chose David, the youngest son who was left out in the fields. What does this teach us about how God sees people differently than we do?
10. Pastor Mark emphasized that David went through many trials and tests that built his character. What trials are you currently facing? How might God be using them to develop your faith and character?
11. **Read Psalm 23.** David wrote this psalm as a man who had been through many "valleys of the shadow of death." What phrase from this psalm speaks most powerfully to your current situation?
12. **Read Galatians 5:17 and Romans 8:6.** The pastor said we all have both a "flesh man" and a "spirit man" inside us, and whichever one we feed will become stronger. What are some specific ways you can "feed your spirit man" and "starve your flesh man" this week?

### Key Takeaways

1. **To be a person of God requires:**
  - Doing justice (knowing right from wrong and doing right)
  - Loving kindness (being both strong and gentle)
  - Walking humbly with God (avoiding pride and arrogance)
  - Hearing God's voice (spending time in His Word)
2. **The difference between Saul and David:**
  - Saul lived for himself and what he wanted
  - David lived for God and what God wanted
  - Saul avoided trials; David embraced them as character-building
  - Saul had a mindset on the flesh; David had a mindset on the Spirit

3. **The mindset on the flesh is death, but the mindset on the Spirit is life and peace** (Romans 8:6)
  4. **We cannot defeat the flesh by doing what we please—we must choose to do what God pleases**
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## Personal Reflection Questions

Take 3-5 minutes of silence for personal reflection:

1. Who is currently sitting on the throne of your life—you or Jesus?
  2. In what specific area is God asking you to surrender control to Him?
  3. What is one practical step you can take this week to "feed your spirit man" instead of your "flesh man"?
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## Practical Applications

Choose 1-2 of these to commit to this week:

- **Establish a daily Bible reading plan** for the new year (the pastor mentioned reading through the Bible annually)
  - **Practice listening prayer:** Spend 10 minutes in silence each day, asking God to speak and simply listening
  - **Identify one area of partial obedience** in your life and commit to full obedience
  - **Memorize Micah 6:8** and reflect on how you're living out each requirement
  - **Journal about your "trials":** Write down current struggles and ask God how He might be building your character through them
  - **Conduct a "throne check":** Each morning this week, consciously surrender the throne of your life to Jesus
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## Closing Challenge:

Pastor Mark asked: "What kind of man will you be? What kind of woman will you be?"

Before you leave, share with one other person:

- One specific way you will put Jesus back on the throne this week
- How that person can pray for you and hold you accountable

## MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul. He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." - Psalm 23:1-3

## PRAYER FOCUS

**Spend time praying for one another in these areas:**

1. For wisdom to recognize God's voice when He speaks
2. For strength to choose the Spirit over the flesh in daily decisions
3. For courage to embrace trials as opportunities for growth
4. For specific areas where group members need to surrender control to God
5. For anyone who needs to make Jesus King of their life for the first time

## For Next Week

- Read 1 Samuel 17 (David and Goliath) and reflect on what "giants" you're facing
- Come prepared to share how you did with your practical application commitment
- Bring a friend who needs to hear about making Jesus King of their life