



Chosen & Struggling PT. IV | 2 Chronicles | Mark Allen | 1.25.26

God's Pattern for Our Lives

Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer: Begin by thanking God for His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: When you think about your home or personal space, what's one area that always seems to get cluttered or needs regular "cleaning"? How does that make you feel?

Key Scripture References

- 1 Corinthians 10:11 - "These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us"
- 2 Chronicles 1:3 - Solomon seeking God at Gibeon
- 2 Chronicles 6:13 - Solomon's prayer on the bronze platform
- 2 Chronicles 7:1-3 - Fire from heaven and God's glory filling the temple
- Hebrews 8:5 - The temple as a copy and shadow of heavenly things

Main Themes

1. The Pattern: God's Design for His Temple (Chapters 1-9)
2. The Peril: Evil Kings and Bad Choices (Chapters 10-35)
3. The Potential: Godly Kings and Right Living (Chapters 10-35)

Discussion Questions:

Part 1: Understanding the Pattern (20 minutes)

1. The Temple as Pattern

- Pastor Mark said, "You are the temple of God." What does it mean practically that your body/life is God's temple today?
- How does viewing yourself as God's dwelling place change the way you approach daily decisions?

2. Three Aspects of the Temple

- **New Beginning:** What "new beginning" has God given you through Christ? Are there areas where you're still living in the "old" instead of embracing the new?
- **Place to Approach God:** How regularly do you approach God in prayer and worship? What hinders you from drawing near to Him more often?
- **Place to Declare God:** When was the last time you shared what God is doing in your life with someone who doesn't know Jesus?

3. God's Glory Filling the Temple

- In 2 Chronicles 7:2, the priests couldn't enter because God's glory filled the house. The pastor said, "When the presence of God is there, it so fills that nothing else can get in." What needs to be pushed out of your life so God's presence can fill you completely?

Part 2: Recognizing the Peril (20 minutes)

4. Bad Counsel (King Rehoboam)

- Who are the people you turn to for advice? Are they giving you godly wisdom or worldly wisdom?
- Pastor Mark said, "Show me your 10 closest friends and I'll show you your future." How does this challenge you about your current relationships?

5. Jealousy & Self-Reliance (King Joram)

- King Joram "made himself secure" instead of relying on God. In what areas of life are you tempted to rely on yourself rather than God?

- How can jealousy destroy relationships, families, and even churches?

6. Idolatry (King Ahaz)

- Pastor Mark mentioned that money, careers, and even our children can become idols. What competes with God for first place in your heart?
- How can you tell if something has become an idol in your life?

Part 3: Embracing the Potential (20 minutes)

7. Determination (King Asa)

- King Asa was determined to follow God and removed foreign altars. What "altars" or habits do you need to remove from your life?
- Isaiah says God keeps in "perfect peace" those whose minds are steadfast. How can you cultivate a steadfast mind focused on God?

8. Teaching & Learning (King Jehoshaphat)

- King Jehoshaphat sent teachers throughout the land with the Book of the Law. How are you currently putting yourself under strong biblical teaching?
- What's your plan for regular Bible reading and study?

9. Generous Giving (King Joash)

- Pastor Mark said, "You'll do better under 90% that God has blessed than under 100% living under a curse." How does this challenge your view of tithing and generosity?
- What fears or obstacles keep you from giving generously?

10. Cleansing the House (King Hezekiah)

- It took 16 days to clean out the temple. What "clutter" has accumulated in your spiritual life that needs to be removed?
- What practical steps can you take this week to "clean the house"?

11. Rediscovering God's Word (King Josiah)

- King Josiah wept when he rediscovered the Book of the Law. When was the last time God's Word moved you deeply?
 - Have you allowed God's Word to become buried under the "junk" of busy life?
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Key Takeaways

✓ **The Old Testament is a pattern for New Testament living** - We are the temple of God where His presence dwells

✓ **We have a choice between peril and potential** - Bad counsel, jealousy, and idolatry lead to destruction; determination, teaching, generosity, and cleansing lead to blessing

✓ **God uses consequences to draw us back** - Foreign nations invaded when Israel turned from God; He allows struggles to redirect us

✓ **Assembling together matters** - While we are individually God's temple, there's power when believers gather corporately

✓ **Cleaning house is essential** - We must regularly remove spiritual clutter and rediscover God's Word

Practical Application (15 minutes)

This Week's Challenge: "Clean the House"

Choose ONE area to focus on this week:

1. Clean Your Schedule

- Remove one activity that's crowding out time with God
- Add 15 minutes of daily Bible reading and prayer

2. Clean Your Relationships

- Identify one relationship that's pulling you away from God
- Seek out one godly mentor or friend for regular accountability

3. Clean Your Finances

- If you don't tithe, commit to taking a step toward generous giving
- Review your budget to see where money may have become an idol

4. Clean Your Media

- Remove one app, show, or media source that doesn't honor God
- Replace it with a Bible app, worship music, or Christian podcast

5. Clean Your Heart

- Confess one area of sin or compromise to God and a trusted friend
- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill that space with His presence
- **Accountability Question:** Share with the group which area you're committing to "clean" this week..

Closing Activity (10 Minutes)

Prayer Stations

Break into groups of 2-3 and pray through these stations:

1. **Repentance Station** - Confess areas where you've chosen peril over potential
2. **Cleansing Station** - Ask God to show you what needs to be removed from your life
3. **Filling Station** - Invite God's presence to fill you completely, like fire from heaven
4. **Declaration Station** - Pray for boldness to share Jesus with someone this week

Memory Verse for the Week:

"The Lord is with you when you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you." - **2 Chronicles 15:2**

Before Next Week

- Read Ezra 1-6 (preparation for next week's message)
- Journal about what God revealed during your "house cleaning"
- Share with one person what God is teaching you from this series

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to those who may be struggling with guilt or shame
- Emphasize God's grace and desire to restore, not just condemn
- Encourage honesty and vulnerability in sharing
- Follow up during the week with group members about their commitments
- Celebrate small victories and progress, not just perfection