



Chosen & Struggling PT. III | 1 Chronicles | Mark Allen | 118.26

Inquiring of the Lord

Opening Prayer

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

Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share a time when you felt like you were in "pain" like Jabez, but God turned your situation around when you called on Him.

Key Scripture Passages

- 1 Chronicles 4:9-10 (Prayer of Jabez)
 - 1 Chronicles 10:13-14 (Saul's failure to inquire)
 - 1 Chronicles 21:1-17 (David's census and repentance)
 - 1 Chronicles 29:10-20 (David's prayer of blessing)
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Main Themes

1. The Power of Inquiring of the Lord

The central theme of 1 Chronicles is the importance of consistently seeking God's direction, especially in our struggles.

2. Repentance Over Perfection

Being a person after God's own heart isn't about never messing up—it's about turning back to God when we do.

3. The Cost of Discipleship

Following Christ requires sacrifice and intentionality, not convenience.

Discussion Questions:

Section 1: Understanding Our Struggles

1. Pastor Mark emphasized that "chosen people struggle." How does knowing that God's chosen people face difficulties change your perspective on your current challenges?
2. Read the Prayer of Jabez (1 Chronicles 4:9-10). What does it mean to you that Jabez, someone named "Pain," became "more honorable than his brothers"? How can this encourage you?
3. Why do you think God allows His chosen people to struggle? What purposes might these struggles serve in our spiritual growth?

Section 2: Inquiring of the Lord

4. What's the difference between Saul (who didn't inquire of the Lord) and David (who consistently did)? What were the consequences of each approach?
5. Pastor Mark said, "You show me your 10 closest friends and I'll predict your future." How does the company you keep affect your ability to inquire of the Lord and follow His direction?
6. Share a time when you made a decision without inquiring of the Lord. What happened? How might things have been different if you had sought God first?

Section 3: Repentance and God's Mercy

7. David committed serious sins yet was called "a man after God's own heart." What made the difference in David's life compared to Saul's?

8. When David sinned with the census, he was given three choices for consequences (1 Chronicles 21:10-13). Why did David choose to fall into God's hands rather than man's hands? What does this teach us about God's character?
9. Pastor Mark stated: "Just because you repent doesn't mean there won't be consequences." How do we balance understanding God's forgiveness with accepting the consequences of our actions?

Section 4: The Cost of Following God

10. David said, "I will not offer a burnt offering which cost me nothing" (1 Chronicles 21:24). What does this statement reveal about true worship and discipleship?
11. What are some areas in your life where you might be taking shortcuts spiritually—offering God something that costs you nothing?
12. Pastor Mark challenged: "God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can stand, but He will test you beyond what you can handle." How have you experienced this in your life? How does this drive us to depend on God?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **Inquiring of the Lord is the key to navigating life's struggles.** Don't make major decisions without seeking God's direction.
 - ✓ **Repentance, not perfection, defines a person after God's heart.** When you mess up, turn back to God immediately.
 - ✓ **Surround yourself with godly people.** Your closest relationships will shape your future.
 - ✓ **God's mercy is greater than man's mercy.** It's always better to fall into God's hands than to rely solely on human solutions.
 - ✓ **True discipleship costs something.** Don't offer God what costs you nothing.
 - ✓ **Gratitude and humility should mark our lives.** Everything we have comes from God's hand.
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Daily Practice: Each day this week, before making any significant decision (even small ones), pause and ask: "Lord, what would You have me do?" Practice inquiring of the Lord in everyday situations.

Personal Reflection:

- Identify one area where you've been struggling and haven't inquired of the Lord about it.
- Write out a prayer similar to Jabez's prayer, asking God to bless you, enlarge your territory, and keep you from harm.

Relationship Audit:

- List your 10 closest friends or influences.
- Honestly evaluate: Are these relationships drawing you closer to God or pulling you away?
- Consider one change you might need to make in your relationships.

Repentance Check:

- Is there an area of sin you've been avoiding or rationalizing?
- Follow David's example: confess it to God and ask for His direction on how to move forward.

Sacrifice Assessment:

- What is one thing you could offer God this week that would actually cost you something (time, money, comfort, pride)?
- Commit to doing it as an act of worship.

Prayer Focus:

Close your group time praying for:

1. **Wisdom to inquire of the Lord** in all decisions, big and small
2. **Courage to repent quickly** when we recognize sin in our lives

3. **Humility to recognize** that everything we have comes from God
 4. **Strength to pay the cost** of true discipleship
 5. **Specific struggles** that group members are facing—that they would turn to God rather than their own understandings
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For Next Week

Preparation: Read 2 Chronicles (or the assigned passage) and come prepared to discuss how the next generation (Solomon and beyond) either built on David's legacy or departed from it.

Memory Verse: "Since I know, O my God, that you try the heart and delight in uprightness, I, in the integrity of my heart, have willingly offered all these things." - 1 Chronicles 29:17

Leader Notes

- Allow space for vulnerability when discussing struggles and failures
 - Emphasize grace alongside the call to repentance
 - Be prepared to pray with individuals who may be facing significant challenges
 - Remind the group that being "chosen" doesn't exempt us from difficulties—it equips us to face them with God's help.
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