



The Announcement PT. V | 2 Samuel | Mark Allen | 12.28.25

Becoming a Man After God's Own Heart

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

Share one person from your past who was "bigger than life" to you. How did they influence your journey?

Key Scripture

2 Samuel 21 - "Then it came about afterwards that David inquired of the Lord saying, 'Shall I go up to one of the cities of Judah?' And the Lord said to him, 'Go up.' So David said, 'Where shall I go?' And He said to him, 'To Hebron.'"

Acts 13:22 - God testified that David was "a man after His own heart"

Discussion Questions:

Understanding the Sermon

1. **The Mirror Principle:** Pastor Mark said we should look into God's Word as a mirror for our lives. What did you see when you looked into the "mirror" of David's story?

2. **Inquiring of the Lord:** David consistently asked God, "What do YOU want?" How often do you ask God what He wants versus telling Him what you want? What's the difference?
3. **Dominion in Your Life:** What is the "dominion" God has given you (home, marriage, workplace, etc.)? Are you taking dominion, or are you just going through the motions?

Going Deeper

4. **Going Out and Coming In:**
 - What battles are you currently facing? (Remember: our battle is against spiritual forces, not flesh and blood)
 - How are you "going out" to war through prayer?
 - When was the last time you "came in" to worship and rejoiced over what God has done?
5. **Carrying God's Presence:** David carried the Ark on the shoulders of priests, not dragged it on a cart. How are you carrying God's presence—on your shoulders with intentionality, or just dragging it behind you?
6. **Staying In When You Should Go Out:** David's downfall began when he stayed home instead of going to battle. Are there areas where you've become complacent? Where you're "staying in" when God is calling you to "go out"?

Personal Application

7. **The Righteous Fall Seven Times:**
 - Proverbs 24:16 says the righteous fall but get back up. The wicked stay in the wallow. Which describes you when you fail?
 - Is there an area where you're currently "wallowing" instead of getting back up?
 8. **Making Recompense:** Is there someone you've wronged that God is calling you to go back to and make things right? What's holding you back?
 9. **Consequences vs. Forgiveness:** God forgave David, but there were still consequences. Have you experienced this? How do you reconcile God's forgiveness with ongoing consequences?
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Key Takeaways

1. The Road to Dominion (2 Samuel 1-5)

- Dominion isn't about controlling others; it's about stewarding what God has given you
- Taking dominion starts with inquiring of the Lord: "What do YOU want?"
- David's first step toward kingship was asking God for direction

2. Worship and Victory (2 Samuel 6-10)

- "Going out" = warfare/battle
- "Coming in" = worship/rejoicing
- The presence of God brings blessing wherever it dwells
- We are the temple of God—we carry His presence

3. Failure and Forgiveness (2 Samuel 11-20)

- Even godly people fail
- The difference between the righteous and wicked: the righteous get back up
- Repentance requires being sorrowful, not just sorry you got caught
- God's forgiveness doesn't eliminate earthly consequences

4. Making Things Right (2 Samuel 21-24)

- Sometimes God calls us to go back and make recompense
- A man after God's heart sets the record straight
- God illuminates our darkness so we can walk in His light

Practical Applications

This Week, I Will...

Choose at least one:

1. **Inquire of the Lord Daily:** Before making decisions this week, stop and ask, "Lord, what do YOU want?" Write down what you sense Him saying.

2. **Establish a Battle Plan:** Identify one spiritual battle you're facing and create a prayer strategy. Consider fasting, Scripture meditation, or finding a prayer partner.
 3. **Create Worship Rhythms:** Set aside time to "come in" and worship. Celebrate what God has done. Write down 3-5 things God has provided that you've taken credit for.
 4. **Make Recompense:** If God has been convicting you about something from your past, take a step this week to make it right. Write the letter, make the call, or have the conversation.
 5. **Repent and Rise:** If you're wallowing in failure, choose today to stand up, repent, and ask God, "What's my next step?" Share this with your group for accountability.
 6. **Pray for Your Children/Grandchildren:** Commit to praying daily for the souls of your children or grandchildren. Ask God to protect them from what they shouldn't see and hear.
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Closing Challenge:

- "A man after God's own heart doesn't mean a man who never fails. It means a man who, when he fails, gets back up, repents, and says, 'Lord, what YOU want is what I want.'"
 - What is God calling you to do this week? Will you say "Yes, Lord"?
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Prayer Requests

Take time to share specific prayer requests and commit to praying for one another throughout the week.

Group Prayer Focus

Pray for:

- **Wisdom:** That we would inquire of the Lord before making decisions
 - **Courage:** To go to battle in prayer for our families, marriages, and communities
 - **Humility:** To repent quickly when we fail and not wallow in our mistakes
 - **Boldness:** To make recompense where God is calling us to set things right
 - **Worship:** That we would become people who know how to "come in" and give God glory
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For Next Week

- Read 2 Samuel 22 (David's song of praise)
 - Journal about one area where you need to "go out" and one area where you need to "come in"
 - Be prepared to share how you applied this week's lesson
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Additional Resources

- Read Psalm 18 (the same as 2 Samuel 22)
- Study Proverbs 24:16 in context
- Memorize: "For you are my lamp, O Lord, and the Lord illuminates my darkness" (2 Samuel 22:29)