



Week 3: Kingdom Heart

OG Discussion Question: Summarize our Kingdom Authority theme for 2022

1. Give God _____
2. Own my _____
3. Make life _____

(See answers at the end of this study guide)

In week 1 Pastor Mark taught a very powerful lesson many of us are still discussing to this day: You can't give God control if YOU are sitting on the throne of your life. And he said if WE are sitting on the throne, in reality, the DEVIL is large and in charge. The Devil is the strong man, but Jesus is the STRONGER MAN!

In week 2 Pastor Lori showed us two pitchers of water, symbolizing that there are TWO KINGDOMS fighting for control over us—the Kingdom of God (pure water) vs. the Kingdom of this world (the do-do water). Who wants to drink do-do water? Of course not. What if there's just a little tiny piece of do-do, just a little tootsie roll, would you drink that? Right? So don't compromise!

OG Discussion Question: In our series on the "Individual Sphere" thus far, which part of our Kingdom Authority theme were these first two messages addressing? What will we address in the next two?

But when Jesus sits on your throne, He doesn't take your authority, He EMPOWERS you with authority. He doesn't take away your ability to make choices. Instead, He empowers us to make the right choice.

Sometimes, don't you wish He did? Don't you wish you could never be tempted? But if God did that, we would be robots. If I could program Mona to do anything I want, say only what I want her to say (hmm, come to think of it...NO!) Well, it might be fun for a while, but in the end, that would be an empty, meaningless marriage. Because she wouldn't mean any of it. It would be like being in love with Alexa or Siri or your microwave. She has no, here it is, CHOICE.

It's the same with God. He gave you the authority to choose. He wants you to CHOOSE to love Him with your whole heart. Otherwise, it's empty and meaningless.

That means, if I want to know God, love God, walk with God, hear His voice, and have a meaningful relationship with God, then I need to OWN MY ROLE. It's your job to make the right choices, and no one else can do that for us.



The first two messages were about how to give God control in our individual sphere of authority. These next two are about OWNING OUR ROLE. Tell the person next to you, "I will own my role, you own yours!"

Recently, the Church has been stunned by the news of serious moral failures by some very high-profile Christians. All you need to know is that these guys were not just extremely popular among Christians, they were very public figures. Their ministries were huge. And their downfalls made headlines.

Before New Hope, I had a mentor in another ministry, and he had a moral failure that devastated everybody connected with that ministry. I was angry and grieved over that for 3 years.

OG Discussion Question: How do we respond to the public moral failures of celebrity Christians? Do you judge? Are you shocked?

The Bible says, "David was a man *"after God's own heart"* (1 Sam. 13:14)

David was, until Jesus, Israel's greatest king. He was a true citizen of heaven, resident of earth. You could say it was Solomon who built the Temple and presided over Israel at its richest, most powerful state. But make no mistake, it was David who made that possible.

To give you a sense of David's heart, here's a verse from a song he once wrote, "*When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, O Lord, I shall seek"* (Psalm 27:8 LW).

Out of Israel's roughly 40 kings, maybe a half dozen were good. Out of the good kings, David was the best. So the Devil saw David and said, "I gotta put a stop to this!" So how does he stop the man of God? How do you stop any man? Oldest trick in the book. A girl! David might be pushing 60 at this point and he still has an eye for the ladies. Must be part Filipino, I tell you!

At this moment, David allowed Satan to take the throne of his life again. Remember I said it will always boil down to a choice? Well, at this moment, David chose to give the throne of his life to the Devil again. But wait, we thought Jesus was King in David's life! Yes, but in a heartbeat, we can give our lives back to the Devil. It always boils down to a choice.

David felt an "itch" and he wants to "scratch" it. Maybe he's bored. Maybe he's going through a midlife crisis. But instead of buying a red Corvette, getting some Wayne Newton hair implants, he does this.

On this day, instead of protecting the kingdom and doing his job as king, David was hanging out nice and safe in his palace. He decides to go up on his beautiful rooftop where there was a nice view of the kingdom. And while he's up there, he happens to see a woman taking a bath. Her name was Bathsheba. Taking a Bathsheba is a good way to remember her. Well, David decides to take Bathsheba.



David is about to scratch his itch the wrong way. Nothing wrong with being itchy, but he's about to scratch his itch in a seriously evil way.

King David blew it badly. He commits adultery. Bathsheba is hapai. He murders her husband. The baby dies at birth. If there's another level below rock bottom, David just found it.

The crazy thing is David is a believer. Today we would say David was a Christian. Remember who we're talking about.

- This is the SAME David who slew Goliath as a teenager when the entire Israeli Defense Force was too chicken.
- This is the SAME David who refused to assassinate the evil King Saul, even though everyone would've agreed to do so would've done everyone a favor.
- This is the SAME David who danced unashamedly before the Ark of the Covenant because he was so passionate about the Presence of God.

That David just committed adultery, got his mistress pregnant, and had her husband killed to try and cover up his sin.

David is a HUGE Celebrity Christian—the biggest celebrity pastor of his day. He's the hero of Israel beloved by the whole nation. Known by Heaven and Earth as "a man after God's own heart." And he just abused his authority in the most heinous way imaginable.

How could he do such a thing? Because WE would never do anything like this, right? Or would we?

OG Discussion Question: After David committed a series of horrible sins, why does the Bible still call him a man after God's own heart?

What we need to see is that it always boils down to making the CHOICE to Give God control, own my role, to make life whole. You could be doing FANTASTIC, like David, all your life, and in a single moment of indiscretion, throw it all away.

But there's a reason, that despite his failures, David is still known as a "man after God's own heart." You see, the Bible says there are none righteous, no, not one. So everyone is on a journey. Most of us get to go on that journey privately, secretly. The trouble with being a celebrity Christian is that your failures are spread all over the internet.

But make no mistake, ALL of us have weaknesses. ALL of us have some ITCH we would love to scratch the wrong way. ALL of us fail. Public or private doesn't matter in the eyes of God because He sees EVERYTHING. We should have a sign outside our church that says, "No perfect people allowed."

So why can we STILL call David "a man after God's own heart?"



The Bible doesn't call David "a man after God's own heart" because he was perfect, instead, he was "a man (going) after God's own heart."

Think about it. David didn't have a perfect heart like God's (no one does), but David was GOING AFTER a heart like God's. He was a man AFTER God's own heart. You catch? David knew he still had elements of the world in his heart, and he's going after God to give him—here it is—a KINGDOM HEART.

OG Discussion Question: How would we define or describe a KINGDOM HEART?

So David, like all of us, made mistakes in his spiritual journey. But what made David "a man after God's own heart" was the way he RESPONDED to his mistakes.

In the time that we have left, let's examine what David did AFTER he sinned. If we learn this, we will walk away from this message equipped on how to "OWN MY ROLE." Who's ready? Say Amen. Let's go!

In Psalm 51 David actually records his total meltdown in another song. See? I told you he was Filipino! Every time his heartbreaks, he writes a song. When he falls in love, he writes a song. Filipino!

Well, in his song, he prays one of the most profound prayers recorded in Scripture,

"Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight" (Psalm 51:4 ESV).

Here's the first thing David did right. He doesn't blame other people for his sin. He doesn't say, "It's not my fault, God! I was just up on the roof minding my own business and next thing I know Bathsheba is taking a bath right in front of me. It's HER fault, not mine!"

No. Instead, David says, "This is on me. This is my bad. I, and I alone, am responsible for this." He takes extreme ownership for his sin.

What do you do when you make a mistake? Allow me to teach you one of the most powerful phrases in the English language. Are you ready? Here it is.

"I could be wrong."

Honey, you took my keys again [I could be wrong] Never mind, they're in my pocket. But watch this...

Neither does David say, "David, you idiot! How could you blow it so badly?" Typically, when we blow it, we beat ourselves up over our own moral failure, and our focus is on how badly WE blew it. We are disappointed in ourselves, and we promise ourselves to do better next time.



You'll say, "What's wrong with that? Isn't that taking extreme ownership? Aren't we supposed to take responsibility for our mistakes?"

Yes, but how many of us know, it's not news that we are imperfect. The fact that you make mistakes has been a given since the day you were born. David knew that too. Did you know David had 7 wives? (2 Sam. 3) That's one wife for every day of the week! And they still weren't enough to satisfy his itch. He had to go out and get Bathsheba. David had the same struggle as every man. He wasn't perfect and he knew it, God knew it, and the entire Kingdom of Israel knew it.

But David also knew that his ONLY hope came from his relationship with God. He was a NOBODY without God. God made him a king. God gave him every blessing in his life. God was the source of all his knowledge, wisdom, songs, and poetry. It was God who directed the stone from David's sling to right between Goliath's eyes. Without God, David would still be out shepherding sheep.

OG Discussion Question: After David sinned, what was the first thing he did right? What was his primary focus and biggest concern?

Yes, David wronged Bathsheba, murdered Uriah, her husband, and betrayed the nation of Israel. But do you want to know his biggest concern? Beyond all the people he hurt that he supposedly loved, David says, "Against YOU, GOD, you only, have I sinned and done evil in your sight."

His biggest concern, David's greatest heartbreak, is what his moral failures did to his relationship with God. Not to dismiss what he did to all his people, but David realized at this moment that the One he hurt the most was his God, his Father in Heaven.

And he can't handle it. He can't believe he did this in the sight of God. He knows he's nothing without God, so now, without God, he is reduced to nothing.

Listen, you can have a relationship with God, but you may not have fellowship with Him. David is still a son of God, but he can no longer hear God's voice.

OG Discussion Question: What is the difference between having a relationship with God and enjoying fellowship with God?

"Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit" (Psalm 51:11-12 ESV).

If Mona and I are not on speaking terms, we're still married but we don't have our usual connection.



David still has a relationship with God, but he is desperate to get back into FELLOWSHIP with God. David has a godly sorrow for what he's done, and he's asking God not to leave him. "Please don't go," David prays.

You see, if we want to be "a man after God's own heart," the first thing we need to understand is what sin does to our fellowship with God. It's not just that we failed. That's just normal sorrow-disappointed that we made a mistake. Everyone does that. That's ordinary sorrow. Judas had ordinary sorrow and went out and hung himself. David doesn't beat himself up. David has godly sorrow. He realized his sin hurt the heart of God, and THAT is what is tearing him up inside.

When you no longer want to sin because you see what it does to your fellowship with God, then you have a KINGDOM HEART.

OG Discussion Question: What's another KINGDOM HEART response to sin? What's the second thing David does right?

David realizes he cannot change himself. He needs God's empowering presence to transform. Read this:

"Create in me a clean heart, O God. And renew a loyal spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10 NLT).

David didn't say, "I'm so stupid for doing that, I need to do better next time." "Owning my role" doesn't mean "suck it up, kid, and do a better job." Instead, it means, "God, I need to grow deeper in my intimacy with God." It's realizing that you cannot change yourself.

Then you enter into a dialogue with God about your choices.

Watch this: When David prays the word "create," that's the Hebrew word "bara." He could've said "make" me a new heart which is the word "asa." But he chose "bara."

OG Discussion Question: What's the difference between "create" (bara) and "make" (asa)?

CREATE - Bara (ברא) VS. MAKE - `Asah (עשה)

Bara = The only time the Bible uses this word is in reference to God. Only God can "bara." "In the beginning, God CREATES (bara) Heaven and Earth. Only God creates from nothing, from Fiat. Ex nihilo.

`Asah = Both God and man can do this. This word can be translated as "makes." "God makes the sky, the sea, the land, the trees, the sun, moon, stars, etc." Adam makes coverings out of fig leaves. Noah makes an ark. It means you take existing material and make something else.



What is David asking? He's asking God to CREATE (not make) him a new heart. He doesn't want God to just fix his old heart. He's asking God to CREATE in him a brand new heart. This is supernatural. You and I cannot create a new heart. Only God can create in us a new heart.

My professor, Eugene Peterson, translates v.10 this way:

"God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life"
(Psalm 51:10 The Message).

This is exactly what happens when someone genuinely encounters Christ.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new CREATION" (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV).

Supernaturally and Spiritually, Jesus creates in us a brand new heart—a KINGDOM HEART.

So David stopped trying to change himself. Instead, He turns to the only one who can create in Him a new heart. You see, the moment you honestly decided to follow Jesus, you were given a KINGDOM HEART by grace.

OG Discussion Question: But what does this mean to have a supernaturally created new heart?

That's a whole other message in itself, but for starters, it means you have NEW DESIRE. How many of us know that, if cultivated properly, the most powerful DESIRE in the heart of man is for God? More powerful than drugs, sex, and rock and roll... and healthier too.

The strong man tempts you with strong desires. But the Stronger Man fills you with a STRONGER desire.

When I "own my role," I will live from my Kingdom Heart, my new, stronger desire, not my worldly desires.

OG Discussion Question: But will I ever be free from sin?

Ultimately, this boils down to choosing God's will in every little decision in life. Ask God about everything. And do what He says.

It's one good choice after another. Keep depositing more and more good decisions into your account every moment.

Pay close attention to the little disciplines you practice every day.



What you eat. Keep cutting sugar. More veggies. How you sleep. Exercise. Sometimes as I take a break from work, I'll do pushups off a table. People always tell us they see Mona and me walking together. My hands going crazy trying to get my point across.

Pay close attention to the way you speak. Your words. Your tone. Your volume. Watch the way you decompress. What you do for entertainment.

These little things make up over 50% of your entire life. Keep choosing the Kingdom over the world. If you fall off your horse, get back on and keep riding.

Now read this, *"If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it"*
(Genesis 4:7 LW).

Like David, we all have a lot of responsibilities in life. But in the eyes of God, your #1 job is to become the master of yourself. No one else can do that for you.

Sometimes I'll see someone going to the gym or going for a run, and I'll say, "Hey, do a few pushups for me" or "run a few laps for me." It sounds funny because we all know, no one can exercise for you. No one can eat healthy for you. No one can get enough sleep for you.

By the grace of God, from the new heart desire He created in you, learn MASTERY over yourself. Ask the Spirit about everything. That is the essence of "owning my role."

Jocko Willink was a Navy SEAL Lt. Commander. He was the boss of Navy SEALs. And he talks a lot about "extreme ownership." On his podcast, people would call in and ask him questions like, "Jocko, how do you get up at 4 AM every day?" And he says, "You get up." Another person called in and asked, "Jocko, I just broke up with my girlfriend, how do I get over it?" Jocko's answer? "You get over it."

I know that sounds like a lot of toxic masculinity, but he's not wrong. Be strong and courageous in Christ! The Devil is going to throw a lot at you in this life, so you need to have a little spit.

This might get me in trouble, but we need to get rid of toxic FEMININITY. That's where someone is not doing God's will and you say, "Oh, you poor thing, you. Too dangerous to go Church. Might get Covid. Jes stay home and cruise."

If you get knocked down, get back up. As Captain America said, "If you get killed, shake it off."

If you fail, don't lose the joy of your salvation. Keep your joy because that keeps you strong. Dust yourself off and run back into the Father's arms.



You only lose if you tap out.

Like David, having a Kingdom Heart doesn't mean you're perfect. It means you are going after a heart like God's.

If you keep getting up and making better decisions, your Kingdom Heart will become stronger and stronger and stronger. And your desires for the things of this world will grow weaker and weaker.

We go to the gym for 3 hours. Lift weights. Look in the mirror and see no change. You go every day for a week. Still no change. So you give up. But growth is incremental.

Every day just open your Bible app or Daily Bread for a few minutes then close it and meditate on what you read. And one day, I can't tell you when, but you'll see your life change. Real change is always incremental.

When that happens you become a more responsible and trustworthy person. God wants to transform you into someone He can trust. He wants you to shepherd His people. His people mean a lot to God. Can He trust you to disciple another? Raise your kids?

He wants you to master yourself so you can PRESENT His image to the people around you.

OG Discussion Question: In Jesus we see the face of the Father. But where do we see the face of the Spirit?

*"In the Son, we see the face of the Father.
But where do we see the face of the Spirit?
The face of the Spirit is you."
Alex Michel*

God wants you to have unshakable faith, one that will not be rocked by pandemics or wars or rumors of war. If you lose your job (because God told you not to vax), you know that God has a better job for you. If your girlfriend leaves you, don't look for Miss Right, become Mr. Right. Keep the joy of the Lord. Don't get depressed. Become unshakable.

Listen now, when you have a KINGDOM HEART, other people cannot affect your shalom. The Devil will tell you, you can only have shalom if everyone around you does exactly what you expect. The world tells you that you must change your husband before you can be happy. Your boss needs to be perfect before you can be happy at work. People in the Church need to live up to your standards first before you can have shalom.

In other words, if you don't have a KINGDOM HEART, you are waiting on circumstances around you to be exactly the way you want it before you can be happy. If that's you, then you're going to be bent out of shape by everything that happens to you.



OG Discussion Question: How does God help me develop an unshakable heart so I can become more trustworthy?

Instead, let God develop an UNSHAKABLE heart in you. Now for that to happen, God needs to test you. Remember, the Devil tempts, but God tests. Pass every test God throws your way.

Yes, even David failed. But the way he responded to his failure, made him MORE trustworthy. That's right. David became an even BETTER king after this. What? How can you say that after what he did?

God knows we are not perfect, so he's not expecting perfection the way we think. But He is expecting MATURITY. When Jesus (Mt. 5:48) says you are to be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect, He means MATURE.

With a KINGDOM HEART, we take EXTREME OWNERSHIP of our mistakes, don't blame others, don't beat yourself up, press into God even more, then your stock goes up in the eyes of God. When you do that, you will embrace your individual authority and others will see Christ in you

Let's all stand for closing prayer.

In Exodus the people are wandering in the desert bickering, grumbling, complaining and snakes come into their encampment. Open doors invite the Devil. Now the people are terrified. What's interesting is how God solves this problem. He tells Moses, put a bronze snake on a pole. Stick it in the middle of camp. God made them look at the snake. How do you overcome your problems? Your fear? Not by running away but by looking at it, studying it, meditating on how God is greater than that thing.

Jesus compares His crucifixion to this snake on a pole. What's He saying? I want you to stare and concentrate on what I'm doing. Yes, it will heal you from sin. But I'm also taking betrayal and nailing it to the cross. Rejection. Nailed to the cross. Ignorance and stupidity. Nailed to the cross. Condemnation. All your greatest problems and deepest fears. I'm taking them all. Look up at Me. I will rise again and conquer everything. Look at Me because I will empower you to do the same.

OG Discussion Question: By faith what did God say to you in this study? How will you now step out in obedience to what He told you?

Study Guide Answers

1. Give God CONTROL, Own my ROLE, Make life WHOLE
2. First 2 messages: How to give God control. Next 2: Own my role.