



# WITH GREAT POWER

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## WITH GREAT POWER: A TALE OF TWO KINGS

With great power comes great responsibility (choke mana, choke kuleana).

Week 1: Samson: Great power, no God vision.

Week 2: Moses: God vision, no power (at first) He wanted to set his people free from slavery but his original plan was to kill the Egyptians one at a time apparently.

Moses eventually gave God control, owned his role, and made life whole. Took him 40 years to figure out the God vision.

So we're learning that it is ALL about God's Presence and Power in your life. And that's what happened in Paul's life. He experienced a real relationship with God, not a religious one.

Week 3: Paul: Where there's Intimacy with God, great power

Final message today: Always exercise your great authority from your intimacy, never from yourself and you will have shalom.

The purpose of this series is to help you rise up in your Kingdom Authority, not shrink and cower when stuff happens and not just benefit yourself. This message will show you the kind of father/mother you should be, the kind of boss/manager you need to be, the kind of teacher/student God wants you to be.

What we're learning is there are three big mistakes we can make with our Kingdom Authority.

1. You could use your power for yourself, eg Samson.
2. You could run away in fear, young Moses.

*"But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death" (Revelation 21:8 NLT).*

3. You could destroy and abuse the people who disagree with you, young Paul the Pharisee. All of these represent an abuse or misuse of your Kingdom Authority to take dominion of the Earth.

Today we will show you how to exercise your Kingly authority correctly. And we will do this by comparing and contrasting two kings. Today we learn a tale of two kings.

King Saul vs. King David. What we'll see is that King Saul was a bad example of how to lead. King David, a better example.



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Both Saul and David were called to be the king of Israel. An impossible thing to accomplish without God's help. Being king of anything is over your head.

Our building project in Mauka is over our head. Cost of materials, gas prices, the economy, DPP, all out of our control. Today, we had to put the project on hold AGAIN because the cost went up over another \$1 million and we can't afford that. If the Lord leads you to give, this is the time because the building permit will expire in 6 months. Took us 7 years and we sunk a \$1 million to get this permit but the price of the project has doubled from \$4 to \$8 million. It's not what we expected but we give God control and own our role. We're now looking at all our options and praying for His will. Please pray for our Legacy of Hope project, and we have overcome obstacle after obstacle. Let's see what God does next. It's over our heads to complete.

But our God is not finished yet. If He did it before He can do it again. So I'll trust Him with what's next. Because my hindsight says I can count on this. Amen? Amen! Someone should write a song about that.

God will always put us in a situation that is out of our reach. If we need to reach, then we grow in our dependence on Him. Stop reaching, and we become content, self-sufficient, and complacent. All bad things.

You see we can do a nice theoretical Bible study on 1 Samuel, OR you can realize that you are in the exact kind of situation as Saul and David. Being the king of Israel is over the heads of both Saul and David.

So our Legacy of Hope Project is over our heads. But there are some of us who are going through far worse. The economy is over your head. Trying to make ends meet and keep a job and keep your apartment in this economy is over your head.

You have a co-worker who is angry at God and he doesn't want to go to counseling. How many of us know when you're hopeless you don't look for help. Helping such a person is over your head.

Cancer is over your head.

You have a difficult spouse? That's over your head.

You have a teenager who is suicidal. Over your head.

Two little kids, a brother and a sister were playing puzzles next to each other, when suddenly the sister starts crying: "I can't do this! It's too hard!" And the brother says, "Wow! Have you taken your nap?"

"Nooo."

"Well, you need a nap!"

"No, I don't!"

It's hard to tell someone who needs help, to get help. That is over your head!



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You desperately need God whether you know it or not, but not the way you may think. He may not immediately get you out of your situation. Instead, God wants to EMPOWER you to overcome the situation you're in. What we will see today is Saul leading from his own ideas versus David who is following God's lead.

There are two ways to pray: God give me this and give me that. OR, God, what do you think? The problem with the 'God-give-me-this prayer' is that God might actually let you have it and then He's going to let you have it, if you know what I mean.

Before I had a relationship with Jesus, I was praying "God give me this" kind of prayers. And at Radford, everyone who was anyone had a cute girlfriend. So I prayed, "God give me a girlfriend." And the worst thing that could've happened happened. God answered my prayer. He gave me what I wanted.

It ended badly. She broke my heart and started going out with someone else. Be careful what you pray for, God might actually give you what you want. Decades later I ran into her again at the mall, and let's just say, good ting I nevah when marry her! And let's leave it right there. Hey, I don't look anything like I did in high school so she probably thought, "Ho! Good ting I nevah when marry him!"

It was this moment in my life that helped me realize that Jesus is what I needed most in my life.

It became obvious King Saul was not going to obey the Lord completely. He would obey the Lord somewhat but he was also trying to please the people. It all came to a head when God told Saul to utterly destroy the Amalekites. This might be difficult for the modern listener to hear, but there is a limit to God's patience. You do not have forever to make up your mind about following Him. And opposing God is definitely not a good idea. The problem with the Amalekites goes all the way back to Exodus 17:8 as the people of Israel were helpless in the wilderness. The Amalekites would raid Israel worse than the FBI, and wage war against Israel. Then they did it again in Numbers and again in Deuteronomy 25. These wars left many Israeli children orphans as their fathers died fighting the Amalekites. So God told Saul to become His hand of judgment and utterly destroy the Amalekites, leaving no one alive, not even their herd animals.

I thought it was interesting that God said to also destroy the herds. I found out there's a Jewish Midrash, which are like rabbinical commentaries on the Bible (so not Christian). But the Jews believed the Amalekites were pagan sorcerers who could transform them into animals! So destroy the herd animals too in case Amalekites were hiding in there. The closest Christian understanding I could think of was remember that time Jesus cast Legion, thousands of demons, out of the poor tormented man? And the demonic spirits were allowed to go into the herd of pigs? Maybe something like that was going on. At any rate, God said to wipe out the Amalekite herds too. Wipe them out completely.



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This is called a “reprobate” mind. Not even God believes you can be redeemed. Not a good to place to end up. When you have a reprobate mind, you are headed for damnation.

Like I said, this might be hard to hear but I think of it like this: What if, after World War 1, the allies completely dismantled German society? Then you wouldn’t have millions dead in World War 2. It became abundantly clear generation after generation, that the demonic spirit within the Amalekites was never going to stop trying to destroy Israel, and this was the life they chose. So God said, “Enough.”

But after Saul defeated the Amalekites, he kept the spoils. He didn’t destroy their herds and he didn’t kill their King Agag. He may have wanted to parade King Agag in the streets to show the people what a great conquering hero he was. And Saul thought to himself, I know that God wanted me to destroy the herds but that doesn’t make any sense. Because I can spare the animals and offer them as a sacrifice to the Lord. Saul decided to go by his own ideas rather than do what God said. Besides, it’s what the people wanted and it would make him look like a good king in their eyes. This is all about optics in Saul’s mind.

So the Prophet Samuel confronted Saul: “Did you obey everything the Lord told you to do?”

“I sure did!” Saul said. The Amalekites are defeated.

But Samuel said, “Then why do I hear the bleating of sheep and the lowing of oxen?”

“Oh that. Well, I saved those so I can make an offering to God,” said Saul.

But Samuel said:

*“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice” (1 Samuel 15:22 LW).*

See that word “behold?” That’s the Hebrew word “hineh” which is the word Pastor Glenn taught you in week two. Hineh means to open your heart and mind to the will of God. When you say “hinnehni,” you are saying, “Here I am, Lord, to do your will with complete obedience.”

Samuel is saying to Saul, “Behold.” In other words, Saul, you should have said “hinnehni,” instead of what you thought or what the people pressured you to do.

Some say, “See God? I’m going to church. I’m giving you some money. I’m serving in a ministry. See all the sacrifices I’m making for you, God? It’s all about the optics. So bless me, God! Answer my prayers!” But the Lord says, “To obey is better than sacrifice.” God is looking in your heart to test your obedience.

You see,

Saul was thinking “transactionally” when he needed to be thinking “transformationally.”



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If you're thinking the reason you're coming to church is because you need God to do something for you, that is a transactional relationship with Him like Saul, meaning, "God, if I do this for you, then you do this for me." You're looking for a transaction and that's not the way this works.

God wants to transform you into someone who realizes that God already knows what's best for you and it's not to give you what you want right now. He wants to transform you into someone who will think, act, speak, and love like Him. Then we'll wait on His perfect timing to answer our prayers.

Discuss this at Shabbat tonight.

What's the difference between a transactional relationship and a transformational relationship with God?

This moment was the moment Saul lost the moral and Spiritual power to be king.

*"So Samuel said to him, 'The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to your neighbor, who is better than you'" (1 Samuel 15:28 LW).*

How many of us know you may carry the TITLE of a leader (a pastor, a boss, a parent), but without the Presence and Power of God, you will be an ineffective leader at best, or an abusive leader at worst.

Saul had the title of king but God was not with him. He was a king who cast a pawn's shadow.

As a result of Saul's disobedience, Israel would constantly be at war. And Saul would eventually find himself surrounded and defeated by his enemies. He was wounded by enemy archers and didn't want to be taken prisoner by the enemy so he told his armor bearer to run him through with his sword. But his armor bearer was afraid to do it. So Saul fell on his own sword and died on Mt. Gilboa (1 Samuel 31). All of Saul's sons died with him on that mountain, including Jonathan. And so ended the reign of King Saul. If you have a transactional relationship with God, not only will you be destroyed in the end, but your children, and their children. Your entire legacy, your lineage, will be erased.

Why did Saul's rule end so tragically while David's was incredibly successful?

Two reasons:

Saul led from self-speak, David from God-speak.

Second, Saul wanted to please people more than he wanted to please God while David followed the voice of the Lord.



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Here's what Saul said in his own words.

*Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice" (1 Samuel 15:24 LW).*

Saul wanted to obey God, he intended to obey God, but in the final analysis, he wanted to be liked by the people more than he feared God. And this is a HUGE challenge for leaders. We all want to be loved by the people we lead.

Mom and dad, your kid will kick and scream and cry because she wants to watch cartoons forever, or he wants to play hours of X-Box, but you need to do God's will in your leadership of your child, and limit their time in front of the TV or this will end badly.

Husbands, you should ALWAYS listen to your wife, but ULTIMATELY, as the king of your castle, you need to hear what the Father is telling you to do. Remember what happened to Adam when he listened to Eve that one time, and what happened to Samson when he let Delilah cut his hair. It doesn't mean you shut your wife down. God is saying to DISCERN to BEHOLD His will more than what your wife or children are saying.

Yeah, but, Mike, they will hate me! Maybe at first. But they will love and respect you in the end for obeying God rather than them. And most importantly of all, we will all need to make an account before God for our decisions at the end of the age.

So in the Spirit, the kingdom has been ripped from Saul. He did not give God control, so now he no longer has Kingdom authority to lead. And God says someone else will take his place. In fact, it's a neighbor of Saul. His name? David.

Now let's look at David's kingly reign.

Saul was at war with the Philistines. That's Philistines, not Philippines. So remember God is no longer with Saul since 1 Samuel 15 happened. So God tells Samuel to appoint a new king. So while Saul is still king WITHOUT the presence and power of God, Samuel is told to appoint a new king who will operate from Kingdom Authority. God tells Samuel to go to the house of Jesse, where he will find the new king of Israel.

But you know the story, Jesse introduces Samuel to Eliab, his firstborn. Now that seems perfectly logical that the oldest son should be the appointed king of Israel, right? Jesse thought so. Samuel thought so too. But here's what the Lord said:

*"Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7 ESV).*



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In other words, don't repeat the same mistakes we made with Saul! Saul was tall, dark and handsome too and that didn't make him a good leader.

How does God pick a great leader? Not by his outward appearance. We think, "Pick so and so. He's tall, handsome, strong, nice, and a good speaker." But God is not looking at your hardware, He's looking at your software. What kind of operating system do you have? Will you go by your own good ideas? Or will you do God Things?

God doesn't pick Eliab. In fact, Samuel inspects seven of Jesse's sons, and none of them is the chosen king.

Frustrated, Samuel says, "Is this it? Is this all your sons, Jesse?"

"Well, there's my youngest, David, but he's a kid and only good for watching sheep," Jesse says.

"I want to meet him," Samuel says. And when he meets David, the Heavens opened up and the Lord said:

*"Arise, anoint him, for this is he" (1 Samuel 16:12 ESV).*

So Samuel anointed David, probably a teenager at this time, and David was empowered by the Presence of God.

God is taking David from the pasture to the palace. He was an excellent shepherd of sheep, and God wanted him to shepherd his people, from pastoring sheep to pastoring people. Most importantly, David had a heart after God's.

But, remember, who is still holding the office of king of Israel?

So now, Spiritually speaking, we have TWO KINGS in Israel. Saul, who has lost the anointing of God because of his disobedience but still holds office and David who is God's anointed and appointed king, but doesn't carry the title of king. What a fascinating predicament to be in!

Saul is a king who casts a pawn shadow while David is a pawn who casts a king's shadow. Let me ask you, "Whose shoes would you rather be in?" Be honest. Saul has the crown, the title, the influence, the money of the Kingdom of Israel, and prestige. David just has the Presence.

If you are in a transactional relationship with God you really only want what God can give you. Saul had everything a person could want from God except the most important thing – God Himself.

David had very little. No crown, no title, no influence, no money, and no prestige. But he had the Presence. So let me ask you, "Whose shoes would you rather be in?"



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Our world today is infatuated with overnight success stories. So many in our world are just waiting to be discovered. Did you know that Saul was an overnight success story? He was a random dude one day who became King of Israel the next. But look where that got him. He was a king on the outside but still a pawn on the inside.

David was not an overnight success. He was a full-time shepherd who did door-dash and grub-hub on the side running sandwiches to his brothers on the frontline of battle. To the world, he was a pawn. But when God looked at him, He saw a king.

Saul's relationship with God was transactional, David's was transformational. The transformational journey doesn't take place in the spotlight. It takes place in secret. David learned how to be king in the pasture, in caves, on the run, through hardship and struggle. But all the while God was transforming him into a man after his own heart. Because of this, Saul's time as king was cut short. But to David God said,

So why wouldn't you want to be Saul? Why choose the long, arduous, dangerous, journey of David??? Read this:

*<sup>15</sup> "But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever." (2 Samuel 7:15-16).*

Saul died in defeat. The absence of God's Presence eventually drove him mad. David, on the other hand, was Israel's greatest king, not because he was perfect but because he was humble and always came to God.

When God reveals His vision for your life, it will absolutely be beyond YOUR ability to accomplish.

David knew this. So here's what the Bible says David did over and over again, the secret sauce in his chicken sandwich, the reason for all his success.

*"David inquired of the Lord" (1 Samuel 23:2 LW).*

The Hebrew word for inquired is "sha'al" which is another word for pray. So too, we need to lead from our connection with God, not from our own bright ideas.

## **Winchester Chimes**

When we saw what hyper-inflation did to our building project, our general contractor, Daryl, called me. He's a wonderful man of God. We were both stunned at what happened. Our project is on hold for now, but for him, his business is shut-down. We're just not spending any money, but he can't make any money.

But do you know what he said? He's fine inside. He says he uses Winchester Chimes. Winchester Chimes? I said. What's that? He said every hour, his phone goes off and plays Winchester Chimes. And it reminds him to pray and inquire of the Lord what to do.



## David's Meditation Life

*"One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek:  
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. To behold the beauty of the  
Lord. And to meditate in His temple" (Psalm 27:4 LW).*

בָּקַר

Baqar: Meditate: to seek, enquire, consider deeply, reflect

Transactional people do not do this. They do not sha'al in order to find out what God is really up to. For transactional people, it's, "God, I will give You this, so You should give me what I want."

Are you in a transactional relationship with God like Saul? Or a transformational relationship with God like David? Are you a king who casts a pawn shadow or a pawn who casts a king's shadow?

Benediction

Let's stand for closing prayer.

Because of David's faithfulness and submission to the Lord, his kingly lineage never ended. From his bloodline God gave us a King like no other.

You see, there is a third King we would be remiss not mention to mention Him. And he is known as the son of David. He was also a pawn who cast a King's shadow. Jesus had no title. He came from nothing. Nothing good comes from Nazareth, remember? Yet, no one, living or dead, has had the impact Jesus has had in this world. A pawn with a kingly influence.

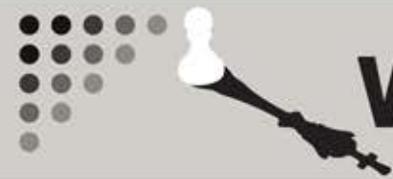
King Jesus was so in tune with the Father, Hew didn't need Winchester Chimes. He was a Man who so embodied the Presence and Power of God, His will and the Father's will were one and the same.

Yet He too always inquired of the Lord.

This kind of oneness with the Father is where we are all going as a Church in 2023.

You know how we say, "I love you and there's nothing you can do about it?" That was 2021. In 2023, we will say to each other, "I love you and there's nothing I can do about it." Your only heart for people will be like Jesus. He loved His enemies. Don't worry if you're not there yet. We'll all be there in 2023.

I love you and there's nothing I or you can do about it.



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## Questions for Discussion & Meditation

1. What's the difference between a transactional relationship and a transformational relationship with God?
2. How about you? Do you have a transactional or transformational relationship with God?
3. Why did Saul's rule end so tragically while David's was amazing? In other words, why do transactional relationships with God end tragically?
4. What was the secret to David's and Jesus's success as leaders?
5. How is your family being led? How is your workplace being led? School? Is there Kingdom authority in those spaces?
6. You may not be the "boss" in your space, but how can you serve as a pawn who casts a king's shadow?
7. How will your prayer/meditation (sha'al) life be different not because of what the Spirit has shown you?