



EVERY MAN'S DESTINY
EVERY WOMAN'S DREAM

TONY EVANS
KINGDOM
MAN

FOCUS[®]
ON THE FAMILY

Praise for *Kingdom Man*

Kingdom Man is a playbook for life. Tony Evans has laid out the game plan to follow if we, as men, want to live a championship life. He describes not only what we need to do, but more importantly, he also shows us how to do it. This book is a must-read for any man who wants to live up to God's design for male leadership of the family!

—TONY DUNGY, NBC *Football Night in America* analyst

I'm a big game-plan guy, and Tony has the ability to lay out a game plan for those of us who want to be Kingdom Men. As we have gotten to know each other over the years, it's become clear to me that Tony has a heart for the Lord and a gift for communicating God's principles.

—COACH JOE GIBBS, owner, Joe Gibbs Racing

We all long to fulfill our destiny; some of us spend a lifetime trying to identify what our destiny is and what we must do to achieve it. There was a time when I thought my only destiny was to win a Super Bowl, but after reading *Kingdom Man*, I was reminded that God has more in store for all of us and that greatness is awaiting if we follow God's plan. *Kingdom Man* will allow you to focus on what you are destined for and how to achieve your destiny.

—LESLIE FRAZIER, Minnesota Vikings head coach

Every woman wants a kingdom man. Maybe she can't find the words to describe what she's longing for, but she knows him when she sees him—the unmistakable sense of purpose, the reputation marked by integrity, the willingness to be a strong leader and tender caregiver at the same time—this is what she desires. And this is the reason every single woman should read this book: to be able to spot a man worth committing to while steering clear of his counterfeit peers. It is also why every married woman should read this book and give it to the man in her life. The man of every woman's dream is the man found in these pages. So read . . . and keep on reading until you're not only clear on what you want, but you're also clear on what you need from the man you have.

—PRISCILLA SHIRER, Bible teacher and author

If you want to experience all that God has destined for you, *Kingdom Man* is a must-read. In it, Dr. Tony Evans gives helpful and relevant tools that you can use to bring yourself to a place of influence and impact. This book will help you progress from being a good man to being a great man!

—TONY ROMO, Dallas Cowboys quarterback

In the NFL we have a saying, “Don’t tell me what you can do, show me the tape!” The meaning is that the tape tells us all we need to know. When considering what it is to be a kingdom man, checking Dr. Tony Evans’s tape will tell you all you need to know. He is clearly a kingdom man himself, who has raised his own sons to be kingdom men, and who has also had a positive impact on so many other men. For the last two and a half years I have been blessed by God to be able to sit under the authority of Dr. Evans as my pastor and more intimately as my discipler. This book is a must-read for any man who is tired of living beneath his purpose and wants to pursue the true greatness that God intends for him.

—JON KITNA, Dallas Cowboys quarterback

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Kingdom Man

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INTRODUCTION

I love the Indiana Jones movies. Who doesn't? Indiana Jones was all man. Here was this archaeologist spending countless hours, days, weeks, months, and sometimes even years in search of valuable artifacts. Of course he faced perilous obstacles along the way. Indy had difficulties, resistance, and dangers to overcome. Yet he always made it. And in the end, he always uncovered his treasure.

Along a similar line are the *National Treasure* movies, starring Nicolas Cage. Cage's character, Benjamin Franklin Gates, lived in pursuit of clues that would lead him to what he was seeking. Again, he faced danger, adversity, depravation, and even, at times, disaster. Yet everything was worth it when he, like Indiana, got the treasure.

Jesus speaks of a treasure. And He calls it the kingdom of God. He says that this kingdom is an unusually valuable treasure for which absolutely nothing should stand in the way. In eschatological terms, the kingdom refers to the millennial reign of Christ when He will return to run Earth from Jerusalem for His thousand-year reign. Yet in the here and now, the kingdom has also been set up for us through kingdom principles, covenants, responsibilities, privileges, rights, rules, ethics, coverings, and authority.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field . . ." (Matthew 13:44).

A treasure is worth fighting for. A priceless treasure, like this one, is worth everything you have. But don't just take my word for it. Jesus said it himself.

The reason why so many men today are living without so much as a semblance of treasure is because they have not understood the mystery of the kingdom; instead, they settle for trinkets, gadgets, golf clubs, video games, careers, cars, and vacation packages.

Those things are okay—unless they take you off course from pursuing the kingdom.



*Jesus speaks of a
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kingdom of God.*



Unless they become your goal.

My son Jonathan is a big guy. In the NFL, he's taken downs with some of the best players. He can hold his own. But he wasn't always that big. One time I remember him running up to my office at the church asking me to come down to the gym and watch his five-foot-three frame dunk the basketball. He had been practicing for months.

Once I got there, Jonathan grabbed the ball, dribbled, and dunked. I offered only abbreviated congratulations. Then I turned to the athletic director and pointedly told him to raise the basket back up to where it belonged. Impatient to grow taller, Jonathan had lowered the goal.

"Raise the basket, Jonathan," I said. "And try again."

He did. And he didn't make it. But he kept trying—and, in time, he made it.

Men, God has a standard. He has a goal. His kingdom is that goal. Yet what so many have done is lowered His standard only to then congratulate themselves

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A lowered standard affects us all. It shows up in our country. In our culture.

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for being able to dunk the ball. The results of this lowered standard, though, affect so many more than just the man on the court. A lowered standard affects us all. It shows up in our country. In our culture. In the economics of our world. It doesn't take much more than a cursory glance around our homes, churches, communities, and globe to uncover that men—not all, but many—have missed the goal to live as a kingdom man.

The impact of a lowered standard leaves its scars no matter what race, income bracket, or community a person is in. The outcomes may be different depending on the location, but they are just as devastating. Promiscuity, emptiness, depression, chronic irresponsibility, family breakup, misuse of finances, divorce, violence, chemical addiction, overeating, indulgence, bankruptcy, low self-esteem, and general aimlessness plague our society as a direct result of the abuse or neglect of biblical manhood.

The deterioration of societies both nearby and around the world has reached an all-time high, while the clarion call for men to come forth to stand for biblical manhood has never rung louder. Our world is on a disparaging path of self-destructive behavior.

That must change.

Yet that change will not occur unless men will raise the standard to where God had originally placed it. This book is about raising that standard and defining manhood as God intended it to be. It's about discovering what it means to be a kingdom man.

PART I

THE
FORMATION OF
A KINGDOM MAN



THE CRY FOR A KINGDOM MAN

A kingdom man is the kind of man that when his feet hit the floor each morning the devil says, “Oh crap, he’s up!”

When a kingdom man steps out his door each day, heaven, earth, and hell take notice. When he protects the woman under his care, she can do little to resist him. His children look to him with confidence. Other men look to him as someone to emulate. His church calls on him for strength and leadership. He is a preserver of culture and a champion of society to keep out evil and usher in good. A kingdom man understands that God never said a godly life would be easy; He just said it would be worth it.

Like a football player erupting from the tunnel at the start of a game, so starts a kingdom man each day. Not only does he take to the field in an explosion of fire, but he also dominates all opposition that rises against him. A kingdom man zeros in on one purpose and one purpose only—advancing the kingdom for the betterment of those within it, which glorifies the King. And he will pursue this at whatever personal cost.

As a chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys both now and during the height of the Tom Landry years, I’ve been to my share of NFL games. I also played football every evening and weekend from just about the time I was crawling until a leg injury requiring surgery ended my game. Yet no matter how many games I have gone to or played in, I have never heard a player complain that the opponents were too tough or that the goal was too difficult to obtain.

Anyone who has ever played or followed football knows that victory does not come just because you want it. Victory is earned only through sweat, guts, and blood. When nearly four quarters of a game have sucked the air from the heaving lungs of the linemen, battered the bodies of those carrying or chasing after the ball, and tortured the minds and muscles of everyone involved—a win often comes through nothing more than sheer determination. It comes to those who know that exhaustion is simply a word. And that *purpose* is far greater than *pain*.

The Third Team

Football is a man's sport. No doubt about it. It is the closest thing to an organized gladiator battle in our nation. In it, passion, strength, and power fuse with precision and skill as two teams face off in an epic display of both force and will. Yet unlike most battles and unlike most wars, a third team is in this conflict. Three teams take to the field.

In fact, this third team is intricately involved within every aspect of the fight that leads to the declaration of a victor.

Maybe you have never noticed that three teams are on the football field.



Maybe you have never noticed that three teams are on the football field.



But I guarantee that you would have noticed if the third team hadn't shown up. Because without this third team, there would be chaos on the field. There would be confusion in the face-off. In fact, there would be no way to play football as we know it.

This is because the third team is the team of officials.

The officials are unique in that their ultimate commitment is not to the teams on the field, nor do they align themselves with any of the other agendas. The officials' obligations do not lie with those who are in the battle, nor even with those watching it take place. Their commitment, as well as their allegiance, belongs to an entirely different kingdom called the NFL office. This kingdom supersedes, overrules, and sits above all others.

From the League office, the officials have been given a book. They have their own book with the governances, guidelines, rules, and regulations by which they are to manage the events on the field. While both teams are constantly pulling at the officials to choose a side, call penalties, or endorse plays, the team of officials must, in spite of personal preferences or emotions, rule according to its kingdom's book. Every decision made by every person on this third team must comply with the rulebook they have. It is their obligation to follow this book that has come directly from the commissioner—who has delegated authority to them.

If at any time an official makes a decision that sides with a team or a particular player—because of pressure from the fans, influence of players or coaching staff, or simply personal preferences—and that does not abide by the book, that official will have immediately lost the support and authority of not only the League office, but also of the commissioner. If the viewpoint of an official ever overrules the viewpoint of the book, superseding the kingdom to which the official is ultimately obligated, the official will no longer rule at all. This is because the NFL headquarters at 345 Park Avenue, New York, New York, will stand by an official only if that official stands by the book. Once an official leaves the book, he has just demoted himself to the status of a fan and become illegitimate in terms of his previously held authority.

Making the Call

Men, you are in a battle. You are in a war. The stakes of this war and its casualties are higher than a checkmark in the win or loss column. Lives will be lost. Eternities will be shaped. Destinies will either be discovered or dismissed. Dreams will be attained or relinquished.

Jesus has not asked you to be a fan. He has plenty of fans already. Every Sunday morning at 11:00 AM, His fan base shows up in full force. They show up in stadiums, often filled to capacity, all around the world. Within these stadiums, there is great emotion, great singing, preaching, excitement, cheers of adulation, recognition, and statements of affirmation. But Jesus is not interested in just having fans. No fan ever set the stage for a battle to be won. Jesus wants men who will carry out His agenda, governance, and guidelines in a world in crisis.

Jesus wants men who will rule well.

This kingdom of men has been intentionally placed in a location called Earth, yet these men receive their instructions from the League office in heaven. This group of men is neither swayed by what the majority says, nor by what the most



Jesus has not asked you to be a fan. He has plenty of fans already.



popular thought at the moment might be, nor even by their own personal preferences. Rather, these men are governed by the kingdom to which they belong. Men who make their calls according to the Book under the authority of their Commissioner, the Lord Jesus Christ, so that chaos will not ensue in this war called life. Keep in mind, that to rule something does

not refer to domination or illegitimate control. Humankind's misuse of the term *rule* through dictatorships and abusive relationships has distorted the legitimate call on man to rule under God's sovereign rule and according to His principles.

In any game, as you might imagine, if the team of officials does not rule correctly, there is a loud cry not only from the stands or the people watching on their televisions but also from the players and coaches. There is a cry in response to the chaos taking place on the field—a cry for the officials to rule well.

The Cry for a Kingdom Man

If you listen closely, you might be able to hear the cry for kingdom men to rule well too. You can hear it in the chaos in the culture causing a cry to rise up from the homes, schools, neighborhoods, communities, states, and from every shattered soul affected by the absence of kingdom men. Never has our nation, or our world, stood on the precipice of adversity in such dire need of men answering the cry to rule well.

Listen.

It is everywhere. It is loud. It is in the heartbeat of every child born or raised without a father, every woman's dream drowned by an irresponsible or neglectful man, every hope snuffed out by confusing circumstances, every lonely soul of a single woman searching for someone worthy to marry, and every sanctuary and community devoid of significant male contributions.

It is a cry for a kingdom man.

If the team of officials stood on the sidelines of a game and never said a word about what was happening on the field, no one would go to the players who are committing the infractions and ask them why they are breaking the rules. Fans would look for the officials and demand, “Where are you? Get out there and do something.” Because without the third team on the field, all battles would be chaos after the coin toss, leading to a loss of motivation, interest, and order. As a kingdom man, you have been commissioned by heaven to rule on Earth while wearing a different kind of stripe. You have been cut from a different kind of cloth because you represent a different kind of kingdom in this battle.

You represent the King.

And as a representative of the King, your purpose is much higher than merely your own and impacts a sphere much wider than you may ever know.

As a kingdom man, there is more to you than you may have even realized.

The Kingdom Ruler

The Greek word used for *kingdom* in the New Testament is *basileia*,¹ which means authority and rule. A kingdom always includes three fundamental components: a ruler, a realm of subjects who fall under his rule, and the rules or governances. The kingdom of God is the authoritative execution of His comprehensive rule in all creation. The kingdom agenda is simply the visible demonstration of the comprehensive rule of God over every area of life.²

God’s kingdom transcends time, space, politics, denominations, cultures, and the realms of society. It is both now and not yet (see Mark 1:15 and Matthew 16:28), close by and removed (see Luke 17:20–21 and Matthew 7:21). Governed by covenant systems, the kingdom’s institutions include the family, church, and civil government. God has given the guidelines for the operation of all three, and negligence to adhere to these guidelines results in disorder and loss.

While each of the three fundamental components maintains separate responsibilities and dominion, all three are to work in conjunction with the others under divine rule based on an absolute standard of truth. When the components work this way, they bring order to a world of confusion and promote personal responsibility under God.

The primary component upon which all else rests in a kingdom is the authority of the ruler. Without that, there is anarchy resulting in mess. Knowing this is exactly why Satan's very first move in the garden was to subtly and deceitfully dethrone the ruler. Before we read about Satan approaching Eve in the garden, every Scripture reference to God in relation to Adam is made as *LORD God*. Anytime you read the word *LORD* (in all caps), it refers to the name *Yahweh* used for God. The special title *Yahweh* means master and absolute ruler³ and is the name God used to reveal himself in His relationship with man. Prior to the name *Yahweh*, God had revealed himself as Creator, which is the name *Elohim*.

However, when Satan spoke to Eve about eating that which she should not,

he did not refer to God as *LORD God*. Satan essentially stripped off the name *LORD*—removing master and absolute ruler—and instead said, “Indeed, has *God* said . . .” Thus Satan sought to reduce God's rulership over humankind by beginning with the subtle but effective twist of His name. In doing so, Satan kept the concept of religion while eliminating divine authority.

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Satan sought to reduce God's rulership over humankind by beginning with the subtle but effective twist of His name.

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By removing *LORD* from the authoritative nature of the relationship between God and Adam and Eve and in bypassing Adam, Satan not only caused humankind to rebel,

but he also took over the dominion that man was supposed to be exercising under God's authority. By eating the fruit in disobedience, Adam and Eve chose to change how they viewed their Creator from *LORD God* to *God*, resulting in the loss of their intimate fellowship with Him and each other, as well as the power of the dominion that flows from the ultimate Ruler.

Even though Eve ate the fruit first, God went looking for Adam. It had been Adam whom God had revealed himself to as *LORD God* in the context of giving Adam divine instruction. As a result, when the title of master and absolute ruler was removed, Adam was ultimately held responsible.

Ever since then a continual battle has existed over who will rule humankind. This is because Adam's importance wasn't simply that he was the first man God made. Rather, Adam was to be the prototype that all men were to seek to become.

Therefore, when men make decisions based on their own thoughts, beliefs, or values—like Adam—rather than based on what God has to say as Ruler, then men are choosing to rule themselves as Adam did. They are choosing to call the King *God* without recognizing His authority by removing His rightful name of LORD God or Lord God, also found in Scripture referring to 'adown⁴ (master)—the verbal parallel to *Yahweh*. Essentially, they—like Adam—are seeking to dethrone their own Creator while still recognizing His existence.

It is religion without the ruler relationship of *Yahweh*.

There are two answers to every question—God's answer and everyone else's. When they contradict, everyone else is wrong. Removing master and absolute ruler from God's relationship with man essentially places God's answer on the same level as everyone else's. Adam's sin was allowing his wife's human viewpoint, which had been initiated by Satan, to override the revealed will and Word of God. Adam allowed a person close to him to overrule God.

Men, only by putting LORD back into the equation will you experience the dominion and authority you were created to have.

God's Authority

God told the Israelites, as described in Exodus 34:23, that three times a year all of their males were to appear together before Him to receive instructions from Him. Yet when God told them to appear, He specifically called them out before the "Lord GOD, the God of Israel." He called them to submit themselves to His complete authority.

If the men submitted, they were told that they, and those connected to them, would receive God's covering, protection, and provision. But they would receive this only if they positioned themselves under His absolute rule. So essential was this element of rulership that God used three of His names as a reminder. The Israelites were told to appear before the

- Lord (*'adown*)
- GOD (*Jehova*)⁵
- God of Israel (*'Elohim*)⁶

God was in charge, to the third power. In using three different names for himself, God emphasized His supreme authority over the men of the nation and their accountability to Him.

The same principle of God’s rulership that applied to the Israelites is no different than God’s rulership today. He is God—*Lord, GOD, God of Israel*, master, supreme God, ruler, and judge. A kingdom man, therefore, is *one who places himself under His rulership and submits his life to the lordship of Jesus Christ*. Rather than Adam being the prototype for man, now Jesus Christ—as the last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45)—is the prototype for a kingdom man.

The same principle of God’s rulership that applied to the Israelites is no different than God’s rulership today.

A kingdom man is a man who rules according to God’s rule.

Just as a referee in an NFL game is able to rule only according to the rulebook, a kingdom man is released to rule when he makes his decisions and orders his world according to God’s rule.

When a kingdom man functions according to the principles and precepts of the kingdom, there will be order, authority, and provision. Yet when he doesn’t, he opens himself up, and those connected to him, to a life of chaos.

The Miracle on the Hudson

The Hudson River runs through New York City—at one point actually separating Manhattan from the New Jersey border. The Hudson swells with both history and heritage. It is also one of the most scenic rivers in the United States, earning it the nickname of “America’s Rhine.”

Two occurrences on the Hudson grabbed my attention recently because each reveals what happens when a man rules, or does not rule, his realm well.

The first happened in 2009 during the icy cold month of January when birds flew straight into the engines of US Airways Flight 1549 immediately after the plane’s takeoff, simultaneously shutting down both engines.

With only minutes until what seemed like an inevitable disaster, the pilot contacted the air control tower to seek clearance for rerouting and an emergency landing. He was told to return to the LaGuardia Airport.

At that point the captain, Chesley B. Sullenberger III, had to make a decision. The airport wasn't close enough for landing, so Sullenberger's only option was to ditch the plane in the Hudson. Yet landing a wide-bodied commercial plane on water without accruing fatalities was unlikely. Sullenberger, a veteran pilot of four decades, was acutely aware that the odds were not in favor of his surviving. Having served as a flight instructor, accident investigator, and flight crew instructor, Sullenberger didn't have to dig too deep in his mind to ascertain what the outcome could be.

Yet with two engines out and nowhere else for the plane to go, Sullenberger took charge of the realm for which he was responsible. Against the backdrop of passengers crying out for someone to bring order to the chaos, Sullenberger made a few quick adjustments, kept the plane just high enough to fly over the George Washington Bridge, and did what few pilots have ever attempted to do—he ditched the plane in the river. Ninety seconds before landing, he addressed the frantic cries of the passengers, stating calmly, “Brace for impact.”

What happened next was nothing short of a perfect textbook ditching. In order for a plane not to break up on water impact, it has to land at precisely the correct speed as well as at precisely the correct level. Sullenberger gently pulled up on the nose of the plane, leveled the wings, and adjusted the speed simultaneously upon hitting the water to prevent the plane from breaking into a thousand pieces. And he did this with a jarring, violently vibrating 80-ton piece of metal.

While the icy cold water began to pour inside the plane after landing, passengers and crew rushed to the emergency exits as Captain Sullenberger directed the evacuation. Once the last person was off of the airplane, Sullenberger made two more passes through the length of the plane to be certain that everyone had gotten off safely. With water midway up the interior, Sullenberger was the final person to disembark Flight 1549.

All souls on board survived.

The years Sullenberger exercised responsibility as an Air Force pilot, an accident investigator, an airline safety consultant and safety manager—let alone more than 19,000 hours logged of uneventful flight time—had prepared him with the necessary skills and mind-set to rule the realm of his plane well, rather than his plane ruling him.

As a result, Sullenberger not only prevented his own teenage daughters from

becoming orphans and his wife from becoming a widow, but he also preserved the lives and legacies of 155 people, the youngest of which was a nine-month-old boy. New York Governor David Paterson called the incident the “Miracle on the Hudson.”⁷

Tragedy on the Hudson

Something other than a miracle happened on the Hudson two years later. It is a true yet tragic story about a twenty-five-year-old woman. Her story, while her own, reflects the countless stories of others just like her—abandoned and broken by the neglect or mistreatment of the man, or men, in her life.

At the age of fifteen, she had her first child. Within a few more years, she added three more children by a different man—giving each of the next three children their father’s last name, Pierre, as their middle name. It was a heritage that shouldn’t have been passed on.

The children’s father didn’t marry their mother. He had been arrested for not paying child support for months on end. Another time he was arrested when their two-year-old son, having been left in his custody at his apartment completely alone, wandered out on a frigid February night. Police eventually found the toddler at 1:15 AM crying near a busy street, partially dressed in wet clothing.

Neighbors and family say that the mom loved her children. They always looked well cared-for, groomed, and appeared well-behaved. Mom was taking classes at the local community college and working—probably trying to better her life.

But on a cold April 2011 day, she posted an apology on Facebook, called her mother, grandmother, and father to say good-bye, loaded up all four kids in her van, and drove straight into the freezing waters of the Hudson.

As the van began to sink, her ten-year-old struggled to open the locked doors or roll down a window while the younger kids cried out in fear. He was able to squeeze himself out of a window before the van went under. He later told police that his mom had gathered all of the kids around her, held them, and said, “If I am going to die, you are going to die with me.”

Neighbors say that the father of the three younger children had shown up at her house just an hour before she drove her children to their deaths. He pounded

on her apartment door screaming threats for over thirty minutes. This wasn't the first altercation the couple had had.

No one knows what ultimately drove her to take drastic measures. But less than an hour after the father had left, the young mother and three of her four children were dead in the Hudson River. Her children's final tears undoubtedly cried out in hopes of someone to stop the chaos of their world. No one did.⁸

Some people may blame this young mother for her actions. And her actions were horrific. But a shared blame for a woman who takes her own life and her children's directly following a volatile situation from the father of her children also belongs to the man.

Her last words, "If I am going to die, you are going to die with me," is a revealing statement because it reflects the power of a man's impact, for good or for bad. Innocent children may suffer a death of their destiny, hopes, dreams, esteem, futures, and possibly even their lives when a man's failure to rule well snuffs out the life of their mother—whether that be a literal, emotional, or spiritual death.

One hundred fifty-five people survived a crash landing on the Hudson because one man operated with responsibility in his realm. Four people died in the icy grip of the same river because one man—or perhaps several—did not.

Which Way Will You Go?

An interesting fact about the Hudson River that I didn't mention earlier is that it is one of only a few rivers that runs in two directions. While tides from the Atlantic move the river northward, the origin of the river at Lake Tear of the Clouds also moves the currents southward. Before being named the Hudson River, it was called by local American Indian tribes *Muhheakantuck*, which means the river that flows two ways.

Just as the Hudson has been hailed as a place of life—the miracle on the Hudson—and a place of death—"You are going to die with me"—life has a way of also flowing both ways. Yet a lot of that depends on you. A lot of that depends on whether you are a kingdom man who responsibly rules with consistency and wisdom according to the guidelines and governances set forth in God's Word. Or whether you are a man of this world, leaving those under your influence

vulnerable not only to what life brings their way but also vulnerable to themselves as a result of the chaos that you have either made or allowed.

If you are a man, like it or not, you are a leader by position. It could be that you are a horrible one by practice, but by position, you have been called to lead. That is what the Adam prototype entailed. God created Adam before Eve because he was to be responsible to both rule and lead. Adam was given his calling to cultivate and guard the garden before Eve was even created. And, as a result, it was Adam whom God sought when both Adam and Eve had disobeyed Him.

This is because Adam was ultimately responsible.

As a man, you are ultimately responsible for those within your domain.

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God created Adam before Eve because he was to be responsible to both rule and lead.

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Men, how you lead will play a large part in either the life or death experienced within your realm. You can either lead those in your care to a place of safety, or you can drive those in your care to a place of chaos. But to rule well is not a call that you make one day and then forget about. Ruling well is a lifelong skill forged through faithfulness and dedication. Sullenberger didn't land his plane on the water simply because he thought it would be an awe-

some thing to do. In order to be the hero that day, he had to show up day in and day out, year in and year out, decade in and decade out, intentionally and consistently applying himself to ruling his realm well.

Captain Sullenberger's commitment to meet the expectations of those he serves in the aviation industry ought to inspire each of us to an even greater level of dedication in fulfilling that which the King of the universe has called us to do.

The King has given you a rulebook by which you are to govern—by which you are to rule, lead, make decisions, direct, guide, and align your life choices. This rulebook is His Word. When you lead according to what He says in His Word, He will back you with the authority you need to carry it out. Yet when you don't, you are on your own. Men, many tomorrows will be determined by how well you rule today.

When you lead according to His principles and His kingdom agenda, you free others around you to be what they were created to be as well. Yet when you

don't, you invite a world of chaos, disorder, and destruction not only into your own life, but also into the lives of those within your influence.

As a kingdom man, you are on the third team sent here to bring heaven's rule into a world in need. But this isn't a game. This is a real battle. This is a war. A spiritual war. You may not be able to see your enemy directly, but his presence is revealed all around you.

When your feet hit the floor each morning, do you make your enemy the devil, say, "Oh crap, he's up"?

When you step out your door each day, do heaven, earth, and hell take notice? When you protect the woman under your care, can she do little to resist you? Do your children look to you with confidence? Do other men look to you as someone to emulate? Does your church call on you for strength and leadership? Are you a preserver of culture and a champion of society, one who keeps out evil and ushers in good? Are you a man who is fulfilling your destiny and able to satisfy the woman in your life?

More than all of that, though, when God searches for a man to advance His kingdom, does He call your name?

