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TONY EVANS  
KINGDOM  
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KINGDOM MAN DEVOTIONAL

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# A Kingdom Man Seeks Priceless Treasure

*The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure  
hidden in a field . . .*

—Jesus (Matthew 13:44)

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.

A treasure is worth fighting for. A priceless treasure, like this one, is worth everything you have.

### **APPLICATION**

1. Who is your favorite movie character? What about him inspires you?
2. How would your current life play out on the big screen?
3. What treasure will you fight for today? How?

### **PRAYER**

*God, give me a vision of Your kingdom and the strength to pursue it like a treasure hunter. Amen.*



## A Kingdom Man Aims for the Goal

*You are never too old to set another goal or  
to dream a new dream.*

—C. S. Lewis

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

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 so many have lowered His standard only to congratulate themselves for being able to dunk the ball. The results of this lowered standard, though, affect us all. It shows up in our country. In our culture. In the economics of our world. It only takes a cursory glance around our homes, churches, communities, and globe to uncover that many men have missed the goal to live as a kingdom man.

That must change.

We must raise the standard to where God originally placed it. We must define manhood as God intended it to be. We must discover what it means to be a kingdom man.

### **APPLICATION**

1. In what areas have you lowered the goal?
2. Are there any pursuits or possessions that have distracted you from the standard of God's kingdom?
3. What scripture can serve as your reminder to pursue God's kingdom today?

### **PRAYER**

*God, today I commit to pursue Your goal, Your standard, Your kingdom. Refocus my vision and strengthen my determination. Amen.*



## A Kingdom Man

*The difference between a successful person  
and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack  
of knowledge, but rather in a lack of will.*

—Vince Lombardi

When a kingdom man's feet hit the floor each morning the devil says, "Oh crap, he's up!"

When a kingdom man steps out his door, 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.

A kingdom man takes to the field like a football player erupting from the tunnel, in an explosion of fire, ready to dominate all opposition that arises. A kingdom man zeros



in on one purpose only—advancing the kingdom for the betterment of those within it, which glorifies the King. He pursues this at whatever personal cost.

Anyone who has played or followed football knows that victory does not come just because you want it. Victory is earned through sweat, guts, and blood—a win often comes only through sheer determination. It comes to those who know that purpose is far greater than pain.

### **APPLICATION**

1. How would you describe your purpose?
2. What action can you take today to better the lives of those around you?
3. What steps can you take today to persevere in the battle?

### **PRAYER**

*God, forgive me when my body and spirit grow weak.  
Fill me with perseverance, no matter how great the pain.  
Amen.*



## A Kingdom Man Follows His Rule Book

*You've got to be right or wrong. I love the satisfaction when you are right—and the agony when you are wrong.*

—Ed Hochuli, NFL referee

Football is a man's sport. In it, passion, strength, and power fuse with precision and skill as two teams face off in an epic display of force and will. Yet a third team is in this conflict: the team of officials. Their commitment and allegiance belong to a 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. It holds the governances, guidelines, rules, and regulations by which they are to manage the events on the field. If an official's viewpoint overrules the book, superseding the kingdom to which the official is obligated, the official will no longer rule. Once an official leaves

the book, he demotes himself to the status of a fan and becomes illegitimate in terms of authority.

Men, you have received instructions from the League office in heaven. You have been given the Book under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. To rule well, to bring order to the chaos in this war called life, you must align your heart and mind with God's sovereign instructions and guidelines. You must sharpen your ear to the call of your Commissioner. You must hide His book in your heart to rule well according to His purposes.

### **APPLICATION**

1. What are you doing to know your rule book?
2. How can you restore order to your domain, rather than add chaos?
3. How will you align your heart with God's Word today?

### **PRAYER**

*Great Commissioner, align my head and heart to Your Word today. Shape me to Your standards and enable me to bring order as Your official. Amen.*



## A Kingdom Man Is Prepared

*For 42 years, I've been making small regular deposits in this bank of experience: education and training.*

—Captain Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger

In January 2009, birds flew into the engines of US Airways Flight 1549 immediately after the plane's takeoff from New York's LaGuardia Airport. Both engines shut down. The only option was to ditch the plane in the Hudson River. Doing so without accruing fatalities was unlikely—even for a veteran pilot and flight instructor like Captain Chesley B. Sullenberger III.

Yet Sullenberger took charge of the realm for which he was responsible. While passengers cried out, Sullenberger kept the plane just high enough to clear the George Washington Bridge and performed a perfect textbook ditching. All souls survived in the “Miracle on the Hudson.”

Captain Sullenberger had never guided a violently vibrating, 80-ton piece of metal onto the water's surface

before. But he had spent his career learning aircraft maneuvering inside and out. His previous 19,000 hours of flight time were uneventful, but they had prepared him with the skills and mind-set to rule the realm of his plane well, rather than his plane ruling him.

Men, the mastery of your kingdom under God's authority demands wholehearted preparation. Some moments may appear uneventful, but each is an opportunity to administer order, authority, and provision to your domain. Each day provides a choice to align your life under God's authority, to exercise and sharpen your leadership, to prepare. When chaos enters your kingdom, you will be ready.

### **APPLICATION**

1. When has chaos taken you by surprise? How will you be ready for it next time?
2. Who is counting on you to come through when it counts?
3. How can you prepare today?

### **PRAYER**

*God of Miracles, draw my heart to discipline. Give me Your vision of purpose daily. Prepare me. Amen.*



## A Kingdom Man Makes the Right Choice

*What were the little ones like? Little grasshoppers, springs full of life.*

—Lenny Armstrong

On a cold April 2011 day, a twenty-five-year-old mother 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 into the freezing waters of the Hudson River.

Neighbors say the father of the three younger children had pounded on her apartment door screaming threats for over thirty minutes earlier that day. This wasn't the couple's first altercation.

Some people may blame this young mother for her actions. 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 also belongs to the man.

One hundred fifty-five people survived an airplane 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—perhaps several—did not.

As a man, you are a leader by position. You are ultimately responsible for those within your domain. You can lead those in your care to safety, or you can drive them 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. A kingdom man chooses daily to give his all to rule well.

### **APPLICATION**

1. How have you recently led those in your care to safety?
2. How have you led those in your care to chaos?
3. What step can you choose today to lead with responsibility, wisdom, and consistency?

### **PRAYER**

*Lord, forgive my failures to lead well. Reveal the steps to turn my best intentions into consistent actions. Amen.*



## A Kingdom Man Brings Freedom

*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, / Because  
He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the  
poor. / He has sent Me to proclaim release  
to the captives, / And recovery of sight to the  
blind, / To set free those who are oppressed.*

—Jesus (Luke 4:18)

The inmates at the prison I visit came from different cultures, backgrounds, generations, and experiences. But most also came from a fatherless home or a home where the father was absent, neglectful, or abusive.

Society's problems are not just society's problems. They are the church's problems. They are our problems.

Virtually every adult social pathology has been linked to either fatherless homes or homes with a father and/or husband who was absent, abusive, or neglectful. Roughly 70 percent of all prisoners come from fatherless homes. Seventy-one percent of all high school dropouts come



from fatherless homes. In suburbia, many fathers have gone “missing” through divorce, neglect, or overindulgence. Many fathers put careers over families, or they love the golf course more than their kids.

But there is freedom in God’s kingdom. Jesus proclaimed as much early in His earthly ministry, reading from the prophet Isaiah in the temple, “He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives,” (Luke 4:18). Men, this begins in our own manhood, in our kingdom identity, in our lives, in our families, and in our domains. A kingdom man finds freedom under the authority of his heavenly Ruler and carries it into the lives of those under his influence.

### **APPLICATION**

1. How have you been held captive? How has Christ set you free?
2. Where in your domain can you be more present?
3. To whom in your realm of influence can you bring kingdom freedom?

### **PRAYER**

*God, bring healing freedom into my life. Make me a source of healing and liberation to those in my domain. Amen.*