

— PREVIEW SAMPLER —

BECOMING A KING

The Path to Restoring
The Heart of a Man

MORGAN SNYDER



BECOMINGAKING.COM

WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING?

Every boy knows he was made to be powerful. As an acorn carries the blueprint of the oak tree, so the heart of every boy holds the possibility of becoming a good and trustworthy king. Yet often headlines confirm what we know from our own stories: the anguished consequences of masculine power gone awry.

Masculinity is in need of restoration. But what is the way, and how can men find it? In *Becoming a King*, Morgan Snyder helps men recover true courage and vulnerability.

How do you become the kind of man—the kind of king—to whom God can entrust his kingdom? Join Morgan and venture together along a path and into a process that restores the heart of a man.

Curated and distilled over more than two decades, and mined from the lives of over seventy-five sages who have gone before us, he has found the most important thing.

And he wants to share it with you.

ENDORSEMENTS

"I'm always reluctant to write blurbs for books, and I didn't want to write an endorsement for *Becoming a King*—but then I read it. It's not sanctimonious advice written by somebody who's never had his knuckles bloody or his hands dirty or his heart broken; it's the honest account of a man who's been where every man needs to go sooner or later. I don't like to sign my name to things that don't matter. This matters."

RANDALL WALLACE

Oscar-nominated screenwriter,
film producer, director, *Braveheart*,
We Were Soldiers, *Heaven Is for Real*

"Morgan Snyder simply asks better questions. His pursuit of the root system of manhood, fatherhood, and royalty brings us within reach of deep truths that could help us outlast the modern brutal storm. This book is for the soul-hungry, sick-of-the-BS reader, which is why I love it. And Morgan picks a much better fight than any ring in Vegas or any back-alley bar. His fight is for his own heart."

JARED ANDERSON

singer and songwriter of
The Great I Am

"I love this book. It engages the deep matters of the heart. It is a book for men, but be warned. It is as much a book for women to understand what it truly means to grow as a man and to love a woman. Morgan awakens in me the hunger to keep moving forward with hope. His call to kingship will unnerve your complacency while calling forth the best of your heart to take on what is truly yours and to throw down what is not. This is a life-shaping journey into the heart of the Father."

DAN B. ALLENDER

PhD, author of *Healing the Wounded Heart*; professor of counseling psychology, The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology; and counselor and founder, The Allender Center

"*Becoming a King* is a rare and essential invitation to living true and becoming a man God can entrust with more. Though younger than me, words could never describe how I've been mentored by Morgan for more than a decade. He's one I'd take a bullet for. What I've gained from this book is priceless and has already impacted me and generations to come. Every man, and every woman who loves him, needs this message."

RICK HINNANT

American Ninja Warrior competitor, and co-founder/co-owner of Grace & Lace (as seen on *Shark Tank*)

"If there is one book that you read this year on growing deeply as a man, this is it! Morgan Snyder does the hard work to engage in the lives of more than seventy sages over two decades of his life. He has uncovered the heartbeat of what it means to be a man of strength and compassion, no matter what heartbreaks he has experienced. Because Morgan is a man with integrity who has lived what he writes about, I recommend not only Morgan's book but Morgan himself. You can no longer say, 'I don't know where to begin.' It begins with this book."

BILL LOKEY

chief clinical director,
Onsite Workshops (2010-2019)

ALSO ENDORSED BY...

STASI ELDRIDGE

New York Times bestselling author of *Captivating*

CHARLES MARTIN

New York Times bestselling author

ZACK DUHAME

Screen Actors Guild Award winner and actor, *Lone Survivor*, *Dunkirk*, *Star Trek*, *Transformers*, and *The Matrix*

CARTER CRENSHAW

senior pastor, West End Community Church, Nashville

CHRISTOPHER WEST

ThD, president, Theology of the Body Institute, and author of *Our Bodies Tell God's Story*

CHAD TURNER

chief financial officer, S&P 500 company

MIKE CARSON

founding partner, Aberkyn, and partner, McKinsey & Company

GREG LINDSEY

lead pastor, Discovery Church Colorado, Colorado Springs

ZACH THOMAS

franchise owner, Chick-fil-A, author of *Leader Farming*

AARON MCHUGH

author of *Fire Your Boss*

AND MORE...

chapter 01 BECOMING POWERFUL



The great problem of the earth and the great aim of the masculine journey boil down to this: when can you trust a man with power? — John Eldredge

When can you entrust a man with power? It was 20 years ago that this question erupted for me. At the time, looking around me as well as within, what I mostly saw was evidence of men being entrusted with power and it bringing harm to themselves and others. Is there another way? Is there a path to becoming the kind of whole-hearted man who can be entrusted with power and have it turn out for good? Through leaning into the wisdom of contemporary sages as well as the wisdom of sages from millenia past, a path began to take shape. And that path is a process. A process of transformation to become the kind of man to whom God can entrust his power. Chapter 1 is an invitation to consider the desire for power, what has gone wrong, and what the path looks like to becoming the kind of man who can wield it well.

chapter 02 BECOMING A SON

Since we are the sons of God, we must become the sons of God. — George MacDonald

It was said by George MacDonald, “Since we are the sons of God, we must become the sons of God.” Whatever else we encounter when we engage the life of Jesus, we encounter a person who is living fully as a son. Sonship is the truest state of being. It is the epicenter of Jesus’ life and it is the epicenter of ours. And only from an ongoing experience of sonship can we bring our strength—rather than our question—to the world.

If we live from an ever-expanding reservoir of sonship as our primary identity, we will become the kind of person that can prevail in any circumstances, no matter what the cost. And even more, we will recover the lost treasure of deep and lasting joy.



The image shows the lower bodies of three men standing side-by-side. They are holding up rectangular pieces of corrugated cardboard to cover their groin area, serving as makeshift skirts. The man in the center is wearing a pair of brown cowboy boots with intricate gold-tooled patterns. The other two men are barefoot. The background is dark, and the floor appears to be a textured, woven mat.

chapter 03 BECOMING TRUE

There are many people who think they want to be matadors, only to find themselves in the ring with 2,000 pounds of bull bearing down on them, and then discover that what they really wanted was to wear the tight pants and hear the crowd roar. — Terry Pearce

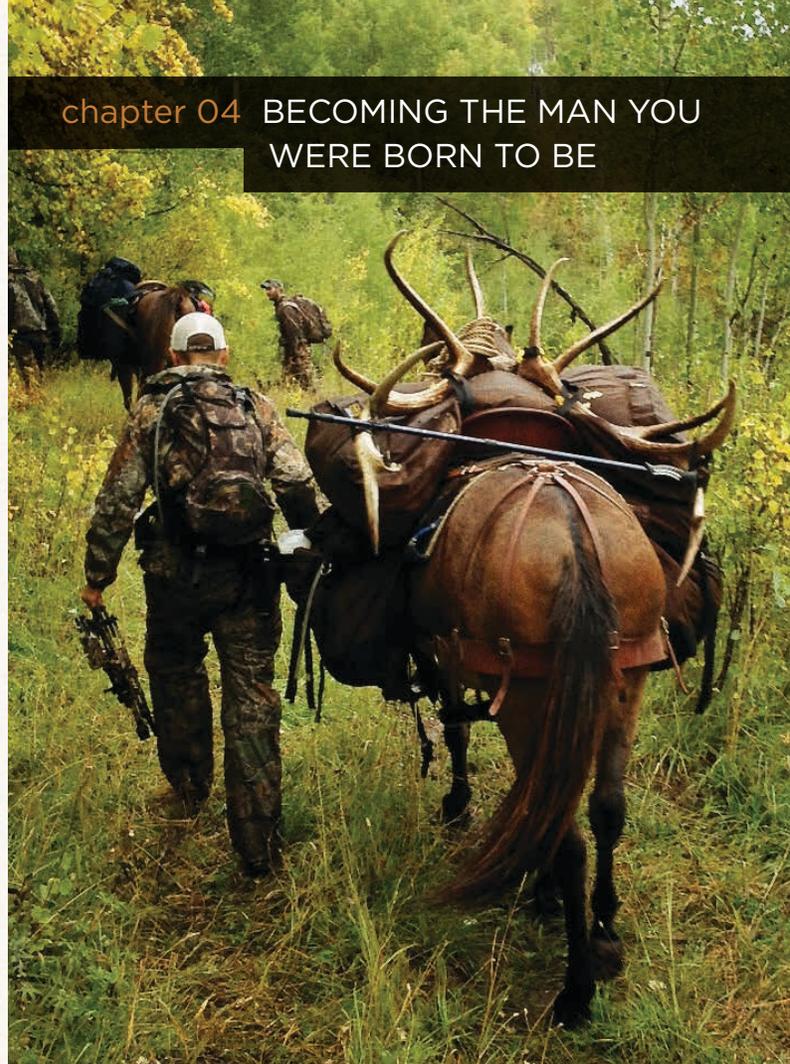
Who have I become? After the fall of man, Adam confesses, “I was afraid, because I was naked; so I hid.” Adam’s story is every man’s story. We have become who we are not. We are haunted by fear of failure and the taunting of that which we find lacking within. In response to our terror, we form caricatures to help us deny our vulnerability and independently survive. Yet the self-protective man we have become is not the truest us. The truest reality of the masculine soul is that we are inheritors of original goodness, magnificently crafted in the image of God. As Jesus promised, from putting to death the false within a man, a greater life emerges. It is here we are welcomed to risk engaging in the extraordinary process of recovering an indestructible life, a life of ever-deepening union with God. A life worth living.

We are all under the same mental calamity; we have all forgotten our names. We have all forgotten what we really are. — G. K. Chesterton

Who am I becoming?

What if in the details of our image-bearing we have been formed and forged as a unique masterpiece? What if we have a destiny to reflect aspects of God's heart that no one else exactly reflects, a destiny to offer a unique strength to our community and beyond? In the book of Revelation, Saint John describes the vision of a white stone with a new name written upon it, a true name from God, a name that expresses the totality of who we are, before and beyond this age of history. If we are ever to become who we were meant to be, we must become our true name. Through recovering our Name, we can shift from withering in the angst of our unvalidated soul to recovering a true and genuine strength to bring to the world.

chapter 04 BECOMING THE MAN YOU WERE BORN TO BE



chapter 05 BECOMING A GENERALIST



In a sort of ghastly simplicity we remove the organ and demand the function. We make men without chests and expect of them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honour and are shocked to find traitors in our midst. We castrate and bid the geldings be fruitful. — C. S. Lewis

To become a generalist is to restore the capacity to do real things and handle real things, to become the kind of man who can handle himself in any and every situation, whether fixing a broken toilet or helping mend a broken heart.

Far from a caricature, the generalist brings skill and harnessed strength to meet the world's needs. Instead of corrupted power or learned helplessness, the generalist brings humility and confident skill.

And in all things, the restored generalist brings life and not harm.

Through becoming a generalist, we recover essential agency with real things and take one more step toward becoming a trustworthy king.

Act like men. — Saint Paul

Without great wars, there are no great generals. Our God is indeed a warrior, leading angel armies in great victories through the ages. Let us not forget, “The Lord is a warrior, the Lord is his name.” It is as warriors that we bring a central expression of the heart of God to a world in desperate need. Since the fall of man, an undercurrent has been pulling toward passivity, fear, and even disdain for the warrior. God knows the damage that has occurred to so many because of the warrior gone wrong. And yet, the path to becoming the kind of king to whom God can entrust his kingdom must include the process of cultivating the warrior-heart of God, in the heart of a man. One key to recovering the ancient path is to learn courage. To become the kind of person who “drinks life like water and death like wine.” A defender of the defenseless. The kind of warrior and the kind of king who can spend himself in a worthy cause and is willing to die a thousand deaths on behalf of those entrusted to his care. It is this deep warrior ethic that must be recovered if a man is to mature into his intended place in God’s kingdom.

chapter 06 BECOMING A WARRIOR



chapter 07 BECOMING GOOD SOIL



Wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her. — Solomon, King of Israel

The restoration of the masculine soul necessitates identifying and restoring a habitat, a particular lifestyle, in which we can thrive. By recovering a habitat that offers favorable growing conditions, the action of God joins with our human effort to produce supernatural results. As pictured in Jesus' parable of the Generous Sower and the Good Soil, when Heaven's power meets human effort, we can recover a life where the fruit of joy and impact is multiplied 30-, 60-, even 100-fold.

chapter 08 BECOMING DEEPLY ROOTED

You must arrange your days so that you are experiencing deep contentment, joy, and confidence in your everyday life with God. — Dallas Willard

What are you practicing?

Our decades are formed by our days, and our days are forged by practices. The question is not if we are disciples (or apprentices), but rather, whose apprentice are we? Make no mistake, we have become and are becoming people who are formed and forged by daily practices. In this chapter, we transition from the framing ideas to the details of a life of becoming, a life arranged around practices of engagement, practices of abstinence, and personally unique practices that ensure our maturing into becoming wholehearted men.



chapter 09 BECOMING LIKE HEARTED



Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least. — Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

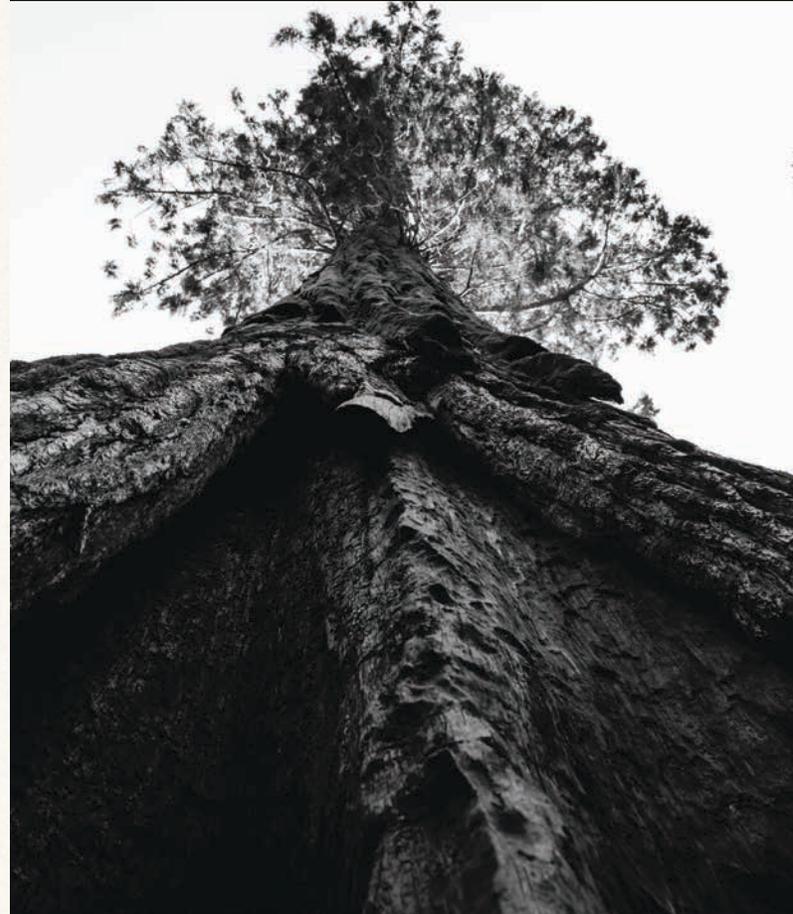
Our souls are designed to thrive only through relationship. What is the relational model for a decade of becoming? We must begin by recovering our hidden life in God, the joyful intimacy available to us with the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit; from that hidden life, we move into an honest, heart-centered look at marriage, parenting and our unique expression of family. Then we explore finding like-hearted kings living in the same direction with whom to sign treaties. Finally, we recover the model of looking to the sages, older men whom we can ask for help and through whom we can experience the fathering heart of God.

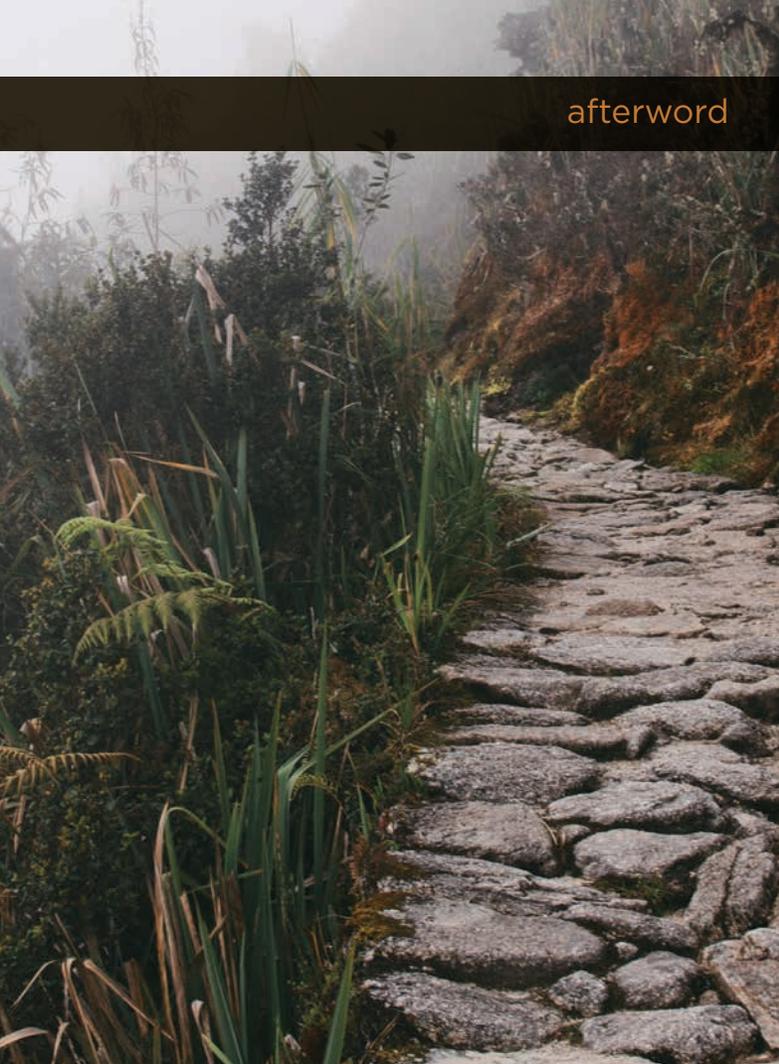
chapter 10 BECOMING A KING

The world has yet to see what God will do with and for and through and in and by the man who is fully consecrated to him. — Henry Varley

Though every generation faces unprecedented challenges, every generation too shares unprecedented opportunity to recover the path to life. Jesus promises that our Good Father is winsomely at work. As we respond to his radical invitation to travel together on this ancient path of becoming, we too can become the kind of kings who so trust and rely on the authority of our Brother that even his great heart is astonished.

There is a place where our deep gladness meets the world's deep need. Life is available; yet, like many great treasures, it is found in the least likely places. Venture into the message of *Becoming a King* and let's recover it, together.





afterword

Above all else, this book is an invitation. It is an invitation into a process of becoming the kind of man to whom God can entrust his kingdom. The greatest revolution in human history began through 12 men saying yes to a personal invitation from the King of kings to recover the ancient path.

It's not easy, it's not cheap, and it's not quick.

The path is made available to all, but few choose it. It has always been so.

Yet those few, those happy few who say yes will recover a life that is truly life. By day and by decade, they will recover life for themselves and those under their care. And the world will find itself in good hands as students become sons, sons become warriors, and warriors become kings—the kind of good-hearted kings to whom God can entrust his kingdom.

The invitation is being made available. Nothing more is needed than a willing and open heart.

May we be among those happy few who give their deep and lasting yes.

ALSO AVAILABLE

In the *Becoming a King* six-session video Bible study, Morgan takes your group or church on a journey to help men recover true courage and vulnerability.

SESSIONS INCLUDE:

1. Becoming Powerful
2. Becoming a Son
3. Becoming the Man You Were Born to Be
4. Becoming a Generalist
5. The Way of Becoming
6. Becoming a King



It's my joy to share this exclusive chapter-by-chapter preview of the message of *Becoming a King* with you. And above all else, my deepest intention is to say thank you for who you are and who you are becoming.

For the kingdom,

Morgan

BECOMINGAKING.COM