We are all continually expanding our influence, which continually increases our exposure. This is why David asked God to search him and correct faults on His own terms. David realized that victory makes us vulnerable and success often brings failure. When David became king over all of Israel, he committed himself to Seeking God and Searching himself.

Read: Psalm 139.1-6, 23-24

Intro: This is Tom Hanks (pic) and while you probably know that Tom has appeared in many excellent movies, such as Toy Story, Saving Private Ryan, and You’ve Got Mail, you probably don’t know that Tom Hanks also uses social media to post pictures of lost gloves he finds on the sidewalk (pic). Way too many pictures of lost gloves (7x pics) and also one of a spatula (pic).

- **In his own words:** “It’s freezing cold outside, and it’s no fun to have a bare hand when it’s freezing cold. And yet, someone has lost a glove. That means half their life has disappeared for the course of the day. Sometimes they’re pretty little knitted gloves, sometimes they’re hard working ... What is a better metaphor for the loneliness of the city? Of a single lost glove?”
  - “We think a better metaphor for loneliness is a middle-aged man collecting photographs of gloves.”
- You also probably don’t know that Tom Hanks shares a lot in common with this guy: Mike Tyson (pic). While Tom loves collecting gloves, Mike Tyson collects pigeons (pic). Way, way, way too many pigeons (6x pics).
  - Over the past few decades, Mike Tyson has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on his pigeons to keep them housed and fed.
- Right now, we’re all asking ourselves “why must these men do such things?” But the better question is “Why do I know these things in the first place?”
- I know these things because these men have been successful in their professions, which landed them on the big stage with the big spotlight which has expanded their influence over millions of people. But the spotlights that bring you fame will always reveal your flaws.
  - Expanding our influence increases our exposure.
- For Mike Tyson, success exposed his high aggression and low judgment, so over the course of his career, he bit a guy’s ear, went bankrupt, and went to prison for rape.
  - Expanding our influence increases our exposure. And sometimes what’s exposed will completely destroy us.

The Truth is...

- Many of us **don’t expand our influence over millions of people**, but many of us have succeeded in expanding our influence into a house, apartment, or dorm only to expose our **pride, selfishness, and disregard** for roommates.
  - Many of us have expanded our influence into a school only to expose our **procrastination, cheating, and disrespect** for teachers.
  - Many of us have expanded our influence into a relationship only to expose our **jealousy, foolishness, and destructive use of sex**.
- Many of us have discovered that our **victory makes us vulnerable**, and our **success brings failure**, so what do we do? How are Christians called to live in the midst of success?
This Semester...

- We’re studying the Life of David through his stories and Psalms in order to understand what made him a “man after God’s own heart.” I want us to understand what defined him because I want to have that heart, and I want you to have that heart. So far, we’ve looked at David’s response to Sin, Rejection, Darkness, Loss, and Pride.

This Morning...

- We’re looking at David’s response to Success. And what we find is that in the midst of Success, David commits himself to 2 goals: to Seek the Lord & to Search himself.

Success

- Read: 1 Samuel 31.4 - Success for David came from the complete failure and disgraceful suicide of Saul, the crazy first king of Israel (who probably took pictures of gloves). With Saul dead, it’s now time for David to ride into Jerusalem to claim the throne promised to him years earlier! This is David’s big parade moment!
  - Ex: Avengers all driving off in their cool cars! Anna and Elsa are great sisters who let it go! Katniss and Peeta murdered everyone!
  - But David doesn’t march into Jerusalem. Instead, he decides...

To Seek God

- Read: 2 Sam 2.1 - After hearing about Saul’s death, David prays to God and asks “What do I do?” And God tells him to go to Hebron, which was not the capital, which basically meant “Wait.” Bummer.
  - Ex: Katniss and Peeta discover there’s ANOTHER Hunger Games
  - But eventually...
- Read: 2 Sam 5.1-5 - David gets to become king over all Israel after 7 1/2 YEARS of waiting. During those years, there were a ton of other guys who tried to become king, but they all basically wipe each other out while...
  - David looked to God for his guidance. Why?
    - Read: 2 Sam 5.12 - Because he knew that all success ultimately comes from the Lord! David Followed God because he knew his success was From God and For God
  - App: So how do we seek God? Talk to Him and His people! More next week. But this morning, we’re focusing on David’s commitment...

To Search Himself

- Read: Psalm 139.23-24 - David wrote this Psalm immediately after becoming king and expanding his influence over millions of people, so he wants the Lord to expose his sin, which sounds a bit risky...
  - My exposure was painful, but it was necessary to build into me a stronger diligence to accuracy, a higher discipline with my words, and a greater humility with my audience
    - David knew the exposure of sin would be incredibly painful, but he knew it was necessary because his victory made him vulnerable and his success could bring failure.
  - David was incredibly successful: 6k to 60k sq. miles, trade routes, destroyed idols, won battles, etc. David knew all of his success and influence would be built upon the foundation of his character, which must be carefully guarded because...
    - Our destruction doesn’t generally come from a sudden act, but from a gradual culmination over time of compromise after compromise after mistake after mistake or glove photo after glove photo
      - Ex: Reggie Watts Video
    - But instead of sweet beatboxing, our destruction comes by what Chuck Swindoll describes as "silver, sloth, sex, and self."
      - Think of any high profile leader failure, and it was probably one or more of these cracks in his or her foundation!
  - Read: 1 Corinthians 9.27 - Paul knew the need to Search himself
• **David knew the danger of prolonged sin** because he saw it in Saul, who started off by thinking just a bit too highly of himself, took a few more chariots than he needed, got just a couple concubines to start out... But those sins built until he was destroyed
  o Great! David is learning from Saul, Seeking God, and Searching himself, so he should be all clear for the spotlight...

**Failure**

• Read: 2 Samuel 5.13 - Despite his commitment, **David fell hard**, just as we all will in one way or another. But despite his failure, David’s true success was his willingness to **run back to the Lord for forgiveness**
  o **Silver** - How strongly do you hold onto your money? Do you trust God with finances?
    ▪ **Instead**: Give to college missions!
  o **Sloth** - How much time do you waste? Do you glorify God in every pursuit?
    ▪ **Instead**: Map out your week & see what you waste!
  o **Sex** - How are you misusing sex? Are you following God’s principles for purity?
    ▪ **Instead**: Get accountability with a friend or one of our small group leaders!
  o **Self** - How much time and energy do you hold for yourself? Do you give God your time?
    ▪ **Instead**: Apply to be a small group leader!

O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!
Psalm 139.1-6, 23-24

After this David inquired of the LORD, “Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?” And the LORD said to him, “Go up.” David said, “To which shall I go up?” And he said, “To Hebron.”
(2 Samuel 2:1 ESV)

And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.
(2 Samuel 5:10 ESV)

And David inquired of the LORD, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?” And the LORD said to David, “Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand.”
(2 Samuel 5:19 ESV)

And David did as the LORD commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba to Gezer.
(2 Samuel 5:25 ESV)

Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, “Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and mistreat me.” But his armor-bearer would not, for he feared greatly. Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell upon it.
(1 Samuel 31:4 ESV)

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “Behold, we are your bone and flesh. In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, ‘You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.’” So all the elders of Israel came to the
king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.
(2 Samuel 5:1-5 ESV)

And David knew that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.
(2 Samuel 5:12 ESV)

And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron, and more sons and daughters were born to David.
(2 Samuel 5:13 ESV)

But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
(1 Corinthians 9:27)