

A TALE OF THREE KINGS:
A study in brokenness

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Gene Edwards' book, 'A Tale of Three Kings: A Study in Brokenness', is engaging and thought-provoking. It gives many nuggets as fruit for thought. Mr. Edwards translated the Scripture to provide a fresh perspective. "Men who go after the Sauls among us often crucify the Davids among us. Who, then, can know who is a David and who is a Saul? God knows. But He won't tell."¹ The book touches humanity in all its brokenness — deceit, jealousy, manipulation, and unforgiveness. Yet, despite the brokenness, God consistently works through brokenness and weakness.

Saul, God's anointed, now maddened by jealousy, is willing to live in spiritual darkness to eradicate David, a young man in his service who did him no wrong. David chose not to touch not God's anointed, despite Saul's jealous rage and determination to kill him. David chose to stay committed and acknowledged Saul's greatness. The third king is David's son, Absalom, filled with youthful ambition,² criticizes the leadership and overthrows his father, thinking he could do a better job of being king. David, not perfect by a long shot, was broken and crushed, yet he determined in his heart not to give back what he received. He chooses not to become bitter like Saul and does not fight against Absalom, but trusts that God will vindicate him, and God did just as he believed.

A Tale of Three Kings was an eye-opener for me. It has given me a higher level of understanding of how church leadership should be. David loved God, and it showed. His actions spoke louder than his words, and without solicitation, he gathered a group of loyal followers

¹ Edwards, G., A Tale of Three Kings: A study in brokenness, p. 44

² Abid, p. 46

because of his change.³ His change brought about the transition of "a sorry, worthless lot,"⁴ as it should be in the church today. Our lives and churches should reflect Jesus Christ. David's change was evident to his followers, so should our lives be. God knew Saul was going to fail; He told Samuel he would, and there are individuals today, whom God has given authority to, and who He knows will fall, but He will allow their internal nakedness to be seen.⁵ Even though God may have anointed an individual, if jealousy, pride, or greed is given a toe hold, we will fall from grace.

There is nothing I dislike about this book. With the chaos and churches' division today, both aspiring and established leaders should read this book. It is crucial, as leaders, to check our hearts concerning the things of Christ and "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." (Matthew 6:33). It is only through the Spirit's leadership that we, the body of Christ, will live in peace and love as we were commanded to do.

Edwards caused me to go deep within and ask myself some tough questions, and I came up with this; it is not about me. God's will must be done. Therefore, I must die to self; as Jesus said, "Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds (John 12:24). Therefore, I must be intentional, and look away from anything that would distract me and maintain my focus on Jesus Christ, who scorned shame and endured the cross, so I too must strip away any unnecessary sin that would cleverly entangle me, and run the race set before me with perseverance (Hebrews 12:1-2) to reach the plentiful harvest.

³ Abid, p. 34

⁴ Abid, p. 33

⁵ Abid, p. 41

Bibliography

Edwards, G., *A Tale of Three Kings: A study in brokenness*, Tyndale House Publishers; Reprint edition, Carol Stream, IL, 2011

With integrity, I have read this book (circle one) Thoroughly and Entirely 100 %

Quickly but completely ____%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely ____%

Quickly and NOT Completely ____%

Not at all

Signed: Jennifer Skeete