

Assignment Title: A Tale of Three Kings Reading Report

A Tale of Three Kings by Gene Edwards

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A Tale of Three Kings is a short book that is split into two parts. Part one is the story of David and his tumultuous relationship with King Saul after he was anointed King but had to wait for many years for Saul to die. In this part of the book, the author investigates how Saul, who

was unbroken and mad handled his God-given authority and how David handled being anointed but pursued by the one God anointed first. Edwards examines what it is like for humans to be underneath someone who is God's anointed but isn't leading the way in which God intends leaders to do so. If we are working or living underneath someone who is mad and unbroken, it is not always for us to determine whether they are God's anointed or not, but God may be using this time in our lives to make us more like Him rather than more like Saul.

The book's second part looks at King David and his son Absalom. Absalom is organizing to overthrow King David, and here we get a picture of what it looks like to be God's anointed but for someone to be plotting to overthrow our power. Here we see other characters encourage David to quash the uprising, but through the character of David, the author encourages us to trust God and His will knowing that God will uphold His anointed if it is His will.

This quote from the book was interesting, "Is this man the Lord's anointed? And if he is, is he after the order of King Saul?"¹ I think it challenges what I think is true of the Lord. While I do believe that God is Sovereign and gives people power and authority, it is hard for me to think that it is God's will to have a pastor over people that is "after the order of King Saul." Maybe that isn't what the book is saying, but I do feel like God allows people to stay in power even if they aren't worthy at times, but that doesn't mean that they are anointed by Him or that it is His will necessarily. Sometimes God allows things to happen that aren't His ideal because humanity has the ability to choose Him or rebel against Him. But, the idea that God would set up and anoint someone unworthy challenges my theological perspective.

According to Edwards, "God is looking at the King Saul in you."² I agree with the author that we all have King Saul in us to an extent. All of us have tendencies to be like Him. All of us

1 Gene Edwards, *A Tale of Three Kings: A Study in Brokenness* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1992), 21.

2 Edwards, *A Tale of Three Kings*, 24.

have the desire to be in control, to be in power. We all rebel against God. We all tend to feel threatened when someone might take our place or our limelight. According to Edwards “the scalpel and tongs God used to remove this inner Saul” was “the outer Saul.”³ I agree that our inner Saul needs to be dealt with, however, I don’t think this is the only way for God to deal with our inner Saul.

One way this book will impact my current ministry is it will help me process trials differently. This book is an example of how someone dealt with suffering and brokenness and trusted the Lord in the midst of it. It shows the reader that as you trust the Lord and allow Him to raise up and tear down those whom He wants, and as you walk with Him in the midst of trials and suffering, God can transform you from the inside out. Brokenness and suffering are transformative if you walk alongside Him in the midst of it. It will also change how I counsel people who are going through suffering. It will help me to help them to view their circumstances differently. It is easy to be a victim and to just complain about the suffering that we have to go through. But, when we recognize that God can use pain and suffering to sanctify us and make us more like Him then we can deal with the pain and suffering better.

Bibliography

Edwards, Gene, *A Tale of Three Kings: A Study in Brokenness* Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1992.

³ Edwards, *A Tale of Three Kings*, 24.

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: Nathan Northcutt