

Assignment Title: Reading Report 5

“The Tale of Three Kings” by Gene Edwards

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Campus Location: ATS Online

Course Title: Personal, Professional, and Theological Foundations For Ministry
Course Number: SF505
Semester & Year: Spring 2023
Professor: Dr. Ronald Walborn
Date Submitted: 4/11/23

Well, I have to start off by saying that I did not expect to enjoy this book as much as I did! So many of the things my heart is wrestling with were woven into the story of King David and received a healing balm through the words Gene Edwards. I am excited to recommend this book as a simple but captivating read for Christians struggling with discouragement!

One question that I seem to be wrestling with a lot these days as a leader in my church is, “Why are we experiencing so much brokenness?” This story quickly dove into this arena as Edwards dramatized David’s ascent to the throne and Saul’s opposition to him. Edwards says David knew that God wanted men and women who would live in pain because “God wanted a broken vessel.”¹ As the story continues and David has to flee the very kingdom that he is destined to lead, live in hiding and fight often to escape death Edwards again says that through this all “suffering was giving birth. Humility was being born. By earthly measure he was a shattered man; by heaven’s measure, a broken one.”² This picture of God preparing David to lead God’s nation by putting him through the fire, purifying his heart, and testing him to the extreme is oddly comforting to me. It reminds me of Hebrews 12:5-6, James 1:2-4, and Romans 5:3-5 which all tell us that God disciplines and puts through suffering those He loves and wants to sanctify. Those verses have all encouraged me greatly, but to have a beautiful case study of those truths in action hits my heart in a different and deeper way. Edwards describes the change in David through his sufferings this way, “His personality, his disposition, his total being had been altered. He talked less. He loved God more. He sang differently.”³ How beautiful this description is! I want to use these words to encourage my

¹ Gene Edwards. “Three,” *The Tale of Three Kings*. (Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1992), 12.

² Ibid, 32.

³ Gene Edwards. “Thirteen,” *The Tale of Three Kings*. (Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1992), 33.

friends and fellow church leaders who have recently experienced the death of a child, the death of a mom, and extreme family trauma and struggle. These families have gone through horrors, but God has used it to make them into something new, something that reflects His image in a beautiful new way. Their whole beings have been altered and they love God more! Halleluiah!

Another question I have wrestled with that was tackled by this book is, “What does true, Godly leadership look like?” I wonder this when I think about the many corrupt church leaders in our country today. I wonder this when I think about my own leadership and sin in my heart. I was thankful for Edward’s call to check our own hearts when he began to talk about praying to receive the power of God and our hidden, ulterior motives to be spiritual giants.⁴ In contrast to those who seek out power for their own gain, David showed submission—submission both to his followers and to God. David sacrificed for His people and shielded them from suffering by taking it upon himself. He also submitted fully to God and His will in ways that seem crazy to the workings of this world. When David had a rebellion coming for him, he didn’t squelch it out or fight back, he did nothing. David trusted God’s ability to give power and authority to whom He wanted to have power and authority and did not presume it to be for him.⁵ How contrary to everything our world tell us—“Take what is yours!” “Fight for yourself!” “Demand what is due to you!” But God’s way is different. It reminds me of the humility of the church we recently received our new church building from. They were long-standing pillar of their neighborhood, not necessarily a dying church but they knew they’re pastor was about to move on. As they began to question what was next for them, they felt God saying it was the end of their time and to functionally shut

⁴ Ibid, 41

⁵ Ibid, 79

down their entity and give everything over to this new, budding church plant—and that's what they did! All their resources and people shifted over to our church and under our name. Such humility and such trust in God's power and will! I long for that sort of submission to God and His kingdom.

So many more biblical truths were beautifully presented in this story that sunk deeper into my heart but for the sake of space I will leave it at that. I can't wait to read this book again!

Bibliography

Gene Edwards. *The Tale of Three Kings*. (Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1992).

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: __Veronica Torgerson__