

John Paul Ross

Dr. Ron Walborn

SF505

RR#5 Tale of Three Kings

“David, I perceive that you are torn by the question of what is true authority and what is not.”¹ I have read this book at least three times prior to this sitting. I will admit I did not understand anything Edwards was talking about. I was confused because I stubbornly believed that I knew what the author was trying to say but he didn’t know how. I quickly realized how arrogant that was of me to think such a thing. This book is about humility. That’s why I quoted this sentence above. I had to ask myself the same question that Edwards was asking of the reader, “what is true authority and what is not”. This story is a story about three kings. David, Absalom, and Saul. This story was essentially the story of me.

I know why Dr. Walborn had the students read this now. I realized that in a personal/professional foundations of ministry class we would have to wrestle with the easily besetting sins that we all deal with as believers. As a leader the pressure is that much more. I have to be keen on the attempt at my position as a pastor, teacher, director or simply a lay leader in the congregation. I see it at my job as well. I’m a supervisor (former manager) of my coffee shop and I see how the favor on my life also challenges me to be like David. I have to be humble and actually not throw spears when I’m provoked and it’s very challenging.

I loved how the author presents David not as a warrior king but as a humble obedient, disciplined servant. He loved his men closely and yet he still governed righteously. He was aware that God put him in that position and not himself. As a leader I am realizing that I’m in a

¹Edwards, Gene. 1992. *A Tale of Three Kings*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 66.

position of true authority because God has indeed called me to brokenness. He's called me to brokenness so that I can be empathetic and responsive to the needs of my congregations and volunteers. I have had many hard seasons in my life. This book helped me see that it was the Lord who was by my side and saw me through all of them. I'm reminded of the portion of the book where in describing the needs of the world, Edwards wrote, "what does this world need: gifted men and women, outwardly empowered? Or individuals who are broken, inwardly transformed?"²

The world needed David. The world did not need Saul, Absalom or even anyone else thirsty for their own glory. The world needed a man of God who was willing to walk away from his throne, to walk away from his position. The world needs leaders that are courageous enough to follow God and if He doesn't speak then we won't move.

In closing I'm reminded of this word that Tim Ross gave on his podcast called *The Basement with Tim Ross*, on this particular episode called, "I am required to go". On this particular episode Tim mentions that it made no sense for him to leave his church that he planted and start a podcast, but he did, why? Because, Tim was required to obey God and not himself. He says in the episode we are required to hear his voice and obey. David sought out to hear God's voice and in some ways he did through his people around him, but David sought a tangible voice. David, after realizing that the coup against his kingdom was undeniable, he left. Putting God in a position of supreme authority. True authority was God, and it always will be.

²Edwards, Gene. 1990. *A Tale of Three Kings*. Carol Streams, IL: Tyndale, 36.