

Book Review

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As I read the book “A Tale Of Three Kings”, I paused many times and thought through. There are so many things that went through my mind. I came to realize self-reflection is the main theme of the book. After reading every chapter I had to do a self-evaluation. Honestly, I think the author was talking to me directly. I see myself as king David in the book. The author starts the book with the typical story of David and took an unknown road. A road that I may not be familiar with when reading books. I have read many books but this one took me on a road that I never knew existed. A road that I never went to, a road of self-reflection. I have never read a book that after each chapter, I have to stop and asking myself is God trying to tell me something here about myself. It is like me recognizing myself and the conflict of my life for the first time. For the first time in my life, I feel like I am receiving the answers that I always ask God for during a trial, why me? As I read chapter after chapter, I discovered that conflicts are necessary despite how painful they may be. Despite how I feel about the conflicts that I face in my life; they are there for the betterment of my life. How can something so painful be good for my life, well it is called the university of God.

“God has a university. It’s a small school. Few enroll; even fewer graduate. Very, very few indeed. God has this school because he does not have broken men and women.” Author Gene Edwards stated the university is for God’s people and it is to teach them about humility and brokenness. One thing for sure, you must pass the exams to graduate and if you fail to pass the exam, you most likely will have to take the class again. Technically, you are not left with many choices. There are conflicts we face in life that are not based upon the choices we made. They just show up at our front door and they are there to stay until we pass the class of brokenness. Edwards, use the story of David to illustrate further. David who was a shepherd with practically no future of being someone important in society found favor by God. Normally, A shepherd

spend so much time at caring for the sheep and livestock, there is very little time for social activity or even to go to school. So, to be someone with high value in society was not in David's agenda. Nonetheless, God thought otherwise.

Now, after God declared David as king over Israel, his life had changed from a normal sheepherder to an outcast. How is it that a promotion that big, that significant, and that of high value brings more pain than success and happiness. David found himself running away rather than being accepted as a hero. One thing for sure, David did not become king after God anointed him as the chosen one. His whole life took a left turn after the anointing. Well, just like many of us as Christians, David had to attend the university of God where he had to learn pain and suffering. He had to be broken. The interesting aspect about the story is that his enemy (king Saul) was also anointed by God. Gene Edwards stated, "David was once a student in this school, and Saul was God's chosen way to crush David." Now, how is it that God's chosen one can be used as a tool of pain and sorrow so that to prepare the one being victim for the greater good of God.

Confidently, I can say neither David nor Saul knew what God was up to. My belief is that they both were attended the university of God. Now, we know David graduated but history shows that king Saul may have not graduated. Now, the question to ask is why God would do something like that. For, this had created confusion. First of all, why did it seem like David was never going to sit on the throne because of all the persecutions he had faced. And as years went by and not sitting on the throne, I think his faith may have started to decrease. He may have said to himself, maybe he misunderstood God, and may not be sitting on the throne as king of Israel. Nonetheless, the plan was still alive, and God wanted David to confront the Saul inside of him so that he could not be the Saul who was chasing him.

Did David have a Saul inside of him, seriously? Why? “You have your eyes on the wrong King Saul. As long as you look at your king, you will blame him, and him alone, for your present hell. But be careful, for God has his eyes fastened sharply on another King Saul. Not the visible one standing up there throwing spears at you. No, God is looking at another King Saul. One just as bad – or worse. God is looking at the King Saul in you.” When I read this statement by Edwards, I closed the book and went outside for a while. I was reflecting on myself deeply. I had more questions than answers. Am I going through the struggles of life because I have a King Saul in me. So, until I get rid of the King Saul in me, my circumstances would not change. Am I arrogant and have a chip on my shoulder. Do I think that I am better than others? Do I need to be more humble or maybe I am not humble at all. My mind was full of questions which answers I did not have.

Now, I realized I am actually enrolled at the university of God and maybe I have been failing my classes. So, I need to accept reality as is, and that I need to totally rely on God rather than my knowledge. I need to obey the word of God despite how I feel about them. I need to go low and bow down before the throne of God. In order for me to rid the Saul character in me, I need to be broken by God. The struggles and the challenges that I face in life are not merely to destroy me but to shape me into the leader God called me to be. Now, I know that unless I graduate from the university of God, I will continue to face struggles in life. No more am I accepting the Saul inside of me. I am ready to change not by my strength but by the power of the Holy Spirit who lives and dwells inside of me. Now, I have started to humble myself before the throne of God in all aspect of my life.

Words are not enough to express the gratitude that I have for reading the book “A Tale of Three Kings” by Gene Edwards. It really inspired me to adapt to change and self-reflection. Conflict

resolution has a new meaning for me. Instead of looking at conflicts with hatred and madness, I now welcome conflict with patience and kindness. After all, I am enrolled at the University of God and the conflict that I face today is used by God to bring success and happiness to my life. I can boldly say there is no success without pain. At the top of success and happiness comes many failures and pain. The pain and the failures of my life shape and pave the road to success in my life. Thank you, God.

References:

Gene Edwards, *A Tale Of Three Kings: A Study In Brokenness* (Newman, Georgia: Christian Books Publishing House, 1980, 1992)