

Assignment Title: Reading Report #5

A Tale of Three Kings by Gene Edwards

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In *A Tale of Three Kings*, Gene Edwards, portrays different types of leadership, characters of a leader under God's authority and the importance of the health of one's soul as a leader through the Kingdom of Saul, David, and Absalom. King Saul is an overly self-ambitious, jealous king, seeking his own good through his decisions while in leadership and to destroy and kill, the one said to be his successor, David. King David, having been chosen and anointed from his youth to become King, remains humble in spite of the ill-treatment and a servant to King Saul, until the time comes for him to become King. Although David was not a perfect king, throughout his leadership he exemplified submission, humbleness, and servanthood *under* the authority of God. He knew his position and power came from the Lord himself and served accordingly. Lastly, although Absalom, David's son, was not as toxic as Saul as a leader, he was rebellious, and rebelled against his father to become king.

This book prompted me to reflect not only on what kind of leader I am/aspire to be, but also what type of leadership I have been under while in ministry / would like to be under in the future. While David remained humble and respectful of King Saul's authority in spite of the ill-treatment, a part of me also sees him not doing anything as remaining *too* passive. "What can a man, especially a young man, do when the king decides to use him for target practice? What if the young man decide not to return the compliment? First of all, he must pretend he cannot see spears. Even when they are coming straight at him. Second, he must also learn to duck very quickly. Last, he must pretend nothing happened"¹. But maybe it was not that he was passive, but rather submissive to the greater vision, a greater authority that was not King Saul, but the one

¹ Gene Edwards, *A Tale of Three Kings*, (Georgia: Tyndale, 1992), 24, Kindle

who had called and anointed him. The matter of being a peacemaker while in leadership comes to mind while reading about King David and reminds me from the lecture on conflict when Rick Warren said that being a peacemaker is not about ignoring conflict, but rather learning when and how to resolve conflict.

Throughout the book, Edwards (1992) illustrates the brokenness also in King Saul, King David, and King Absalom. However, the distinction is in how each of them chose to handle and use their brokenness. King Saul and King Absalom surrendered themselves to their brokenness, letting it be what dictated their leadership and actions, resulting in them being toxic leaders. Whereas King David surrendered his brokenness to the Lord and allowed Him to use it as a platform for his leadership. He did not ignore it, but rather acknowledged all the more, in amplifying His brokenness he, too, amplified God's greatness and sovereignty.

I aspire to be a servant as David was before aspiring to be like him as a leader. He remained faithful as a servant to his father, to King Saul before he took the position of King. I want to be perfected in the office of a daughter of the King, a servant first, so I am able excel in the office of leader in whatever magnitude He calls me to.

With integrity, I have read this book (circle one):

Thoroughly and Entirely_100____%

Signed: Stephany Ortiz

Bibliography

Edwards, Gene. (1992). *A Tale of Three Kings*. Georgia: Tyndale. Kindle