

Book Review – A tale of Three Kings

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## Book Review

### Summarize the main ideas the author is communicating

The book, A Tale of three Kings by Gene Edwards is a book of deep pain and brokenness filled with valuable lessons that David went through. This book touched my heart so deeply the very first time I read it. Some main ideas I believe the author is communicating are : I will begin at God 's school, his university of broken-esss (part one). I believe this is the best place to start, before any ministry can be born within us and in truth, this university of the Lord should be our first stop. Secondl, when spears are thrown at us, we are not to throw them back but instead show courage, stand for what is rightIt and keep our mouth. Third, I believe one of the hardest lessons to learn and do in Christ is to put self to death. Yes, we all have to put to death the king Saul in our soul and this is very painful. Fourth, a true kingdom person, when it's time to leave a ministry, do so alone, they do not split the church.

Fifth, Our valley experiences and sufferings would give birth to humility being born within, as Edwards mainly describes this - " By earthy measure he (David) was a shattered man, by heaven's measure a broken one. Sixth, God chose to give us his power and fill us with gifts he does not take back, even if we sin, God desires that we be clothed with humility in our inner man of the heart. Finally , I believe the root of all sin problems begins from the heart, our actions will help us to know if we are acting after the order of king Saul or after the order of king David. If we choose to go after the order of David then we have chosen the anointing, we have chosen to crucify ourselves, we have chosen to not throw back any spear, we chose to follow God's way.

In part two of the book, Edwards stated "Rebels who ascend to the throne by rebellion have no patience with other rebels and their rebellion" Rebellion cannot reign

in God's kingdom, he is in control, so God doesn't use neither does he has any rebels in his kingdom because his kingdom is a spiritual one, the spirit of Absalom is divisive and dangerous. We should endeavor to stay clear of this. Another touching highlight in part two for me, here we see another one of David's son Abishai speaking with his father. It is obvious that when one is broken, and someone hurts you, you do not fight fire with fire, that is a Saul or a Absalom reaction.

### **What is one concept that stood out to you in this book?**

One of the concepts that stood out to me in this book is putting to death self in order to be broken before the Lord. I strongly believe that this is the cause of many of our problems in the church today. We are too "alive" for God to even get our attention. There are many lovely men and women of God in our churches today, however, the unwillingness of many christians to not enroll into God's university of broken-ness, the church is filled with many hurting believers instead. Many of us do not like the idea of coming to the end of ourselves (dying) . It seems too hard to do, but this is what God requires of us. Jesus declares in Matthew 16: 24 *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

### **What implications does this concept have for leading in a church context?**

This concept may just turn into an elite debate than anything else for which it was not intended, To others it might seem unattainable, or too old school. But Jeremiah 6:16 states, "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, "We will not walk therein."

**What needs to change in your life as a result?**

What needs to change in my life as a result of this concept. I need to abide in God's presence daily more. Spending more time reading God's Word is a high priority for me, I need to get back to this discipline; reading the assigned textbook for school has really dug into this somewhat for me. Right now I choose to open up myself to God, I believe I am being broken, self denial.

**References:**

Edwards, G. (1980). *A tale of three kings: A study in brokenness*. Christian Books.