

“TALE OF THREE KINGS” – READING REPORT

Turron Alleyne
SF505 NA/NOS – Formation for Ministry
May 8, 2023

“*The Tale of Three Kings*” by Gene Edwards is a vivid illustration of Scripture in story form, that revealed the hearts and motives of man using 3 kings in the Bible – Saul, David and Absalom. Three main points in Edwards writing is that one; as Christians our hearts really need to be checked by the Heart of God, His Word and His character. We may think our intentions are good, but if they do not come from a surrendered heart to doing God’s will, then we better go back and surrender it to God in prayer. Second point is how we operate in the authority God has given us. Do we operate as a Saul, a David or an Absalom? Do we insecurely lord our “authority” over people, or do we humbly walk in the grace that God has given us? The choice is ours. And thirdly, this book reveals that our hearts can lean into some of the wickedest and vile “villains” of Scripture that, from face value, we do not want to imitate or reflect, but unbeknownst to us, we too can be deceived into living out such wickedness in the “Name of the Lord”. We are so prone to deception and we must lean on God to live in the freedom and holiness the Father calls us to through His Son Jesus Christ.

This book interacts with my present so vividly. Just THIS MORNING I was praying to God and asking Him to strengthen me in my spirit to fight off demonic attack in my life. But when I came across this portion in my reading, it literally brought me to tears of repentance and I had to stop reading and pray. It reads:

Many pray for the power of God. More every year. Those prayers sound powerful, sincere, godly and without ulterior motive. Hidden under such prayer and fervor, however, are ambition, a craving for fame, the desire to be considered a spiritual giant. The person who prays such a prayer may not even know it, but dark motives and desires are in his heart...in *your* heart...Prayer for power is the quick and the short way, circumnavigating internal growth. There is a vast difference between the outward clothing of the Spirit’s power and the inward filling of the Spirit’s life. In the first, despite the power, the hidden man of the heart may remain unchanged. In the latter, that monster is dealt with.¹

¹ Gene Edwards, *A Tale of Three Kings*, (Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1992), 40-41

These words recalibrated me to the understanding that intimacy with the Father is truly what I yearn for, and that intimacy with Him gives us the true strength we desire and need.

My worldview was definitely challenged in this reading. One way in particular is how to deal with division amongst the Body of Christ and positions He has given us. When God gives us a position, we don't have to defend ourselves. He will do that. Nor shall we resort to carnal and sinful ways to remain in the position God has given us. Edwards wrote, "*Shall I defend my little realm in the name of God? Shall I throw spears, and plot and divide...and kill men's spirits if not their bodies...to protect my empire? I did not lift a finger to be made king. Nor shall I do so to preserve a kingdom. Even the kingdom of God!*"² I agree with pretty much everything in this reading. The only place I would have to question is how David dealt with his son. I haven't read this part of Scripture in awhile, but what I vaguely remember at the moment is that David didn't handle his children well. So although I LOVE the illustration of how David handled the situation with Absalom in "*A Tale of Three Kings*", I would have to bounce it off of Scripture. But the heart of how David handled the situation in this book, I absolutely love!

This book has impacted my theology and current ministry immensely in how I operate in the authority of sonship that God has given me and how I treat people. We are not to lord ourselves over people. We are not to try and control others, and if we do, it's really exposing the pride that tries to mask our insecurities. It reveals to me that we really have to walk in submission to the Father that's led from a place of a Spirit-filled life, rather than just wanting to be used by God. To not have a form of godliness and denying His power. His true power in us is HIMSELF! A love relationship that produces a transformed life – filled with the Fruit of the Spirit and not just the gifts of the Spirit. This book is making me really CHECK MYSELF! For real (2 Corinthians 13:5). And for that, I am grateful! Thank you for assigning this book...

² Gene Edwards, *A Tale of Three Kings*, (Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1992), 74

With integrity, I have read this book:

Thoroughly and Entirely_____%

Quickly but Completely_____%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely_____%

Quickly but NOT Completely_____%

Not at All

Signed: Turron Alleyne