

PURSUE



THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF A MAN AFTER GOD'S HEART

**DAVID PURSUED GOD
AND
DIDN'T FIGHT BACK**

¹After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the Desert of En Gedi.” ²So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats. ³He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. ⁴The men said, “This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’” Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. ⁵Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.

1 Samuel 24:1-7, 11-15, 17-19 (NIV)

⁶ He said to his men, “The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD.” ⁷ With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

1 Samuel 24:1-7, 11-15, 17-19 (NIV)

¹¹ See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. ¹² May the LORD judge between you and me. And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. ¹³ As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you. ¹⁴ "Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Who are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? ¹⁵ May the LORD be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand."

1 Samuel 24:1-7, 11-15, 17-19 (NIV)

¹⁷“You are more righteous than I,” he said. “You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. ¹⁸You have just now told me about the good you did to me; the LORD delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. ¹⁹When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today.

1 Samuel 24:1-7, 11-15, 17-19 (NIV)

JACKIE ROBINSON & BRANCH RICKEY

(General Manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers), 1945



Branch Rickey: “We can’t fight our way through this, Robinson. We’ve got no army. There’s virtually nobody on our side—no owners, no umpires, very few newspapermen. Many fans will be hostile. They’ll throw bean balls at you, he said. They’ll call you dirty names. They’ll taunt you and attack you. Can you take all that without losing your temper?”

Jackie Robinson: “Mr. Rickey, are you looking for a man who is afraid to fight back?”

Branch Rickey: “Robinson, I’m looking for a ballplayer with guts enough not to fight back.”

⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

1 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’

³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.

Matthew 5:38-40 (NIV)

HE'S ABLE TO TAME OUR NATURE

⁴ Then David crept up **unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe**. ⁵ Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.

1 Samuel 24:4-5 (NIV)

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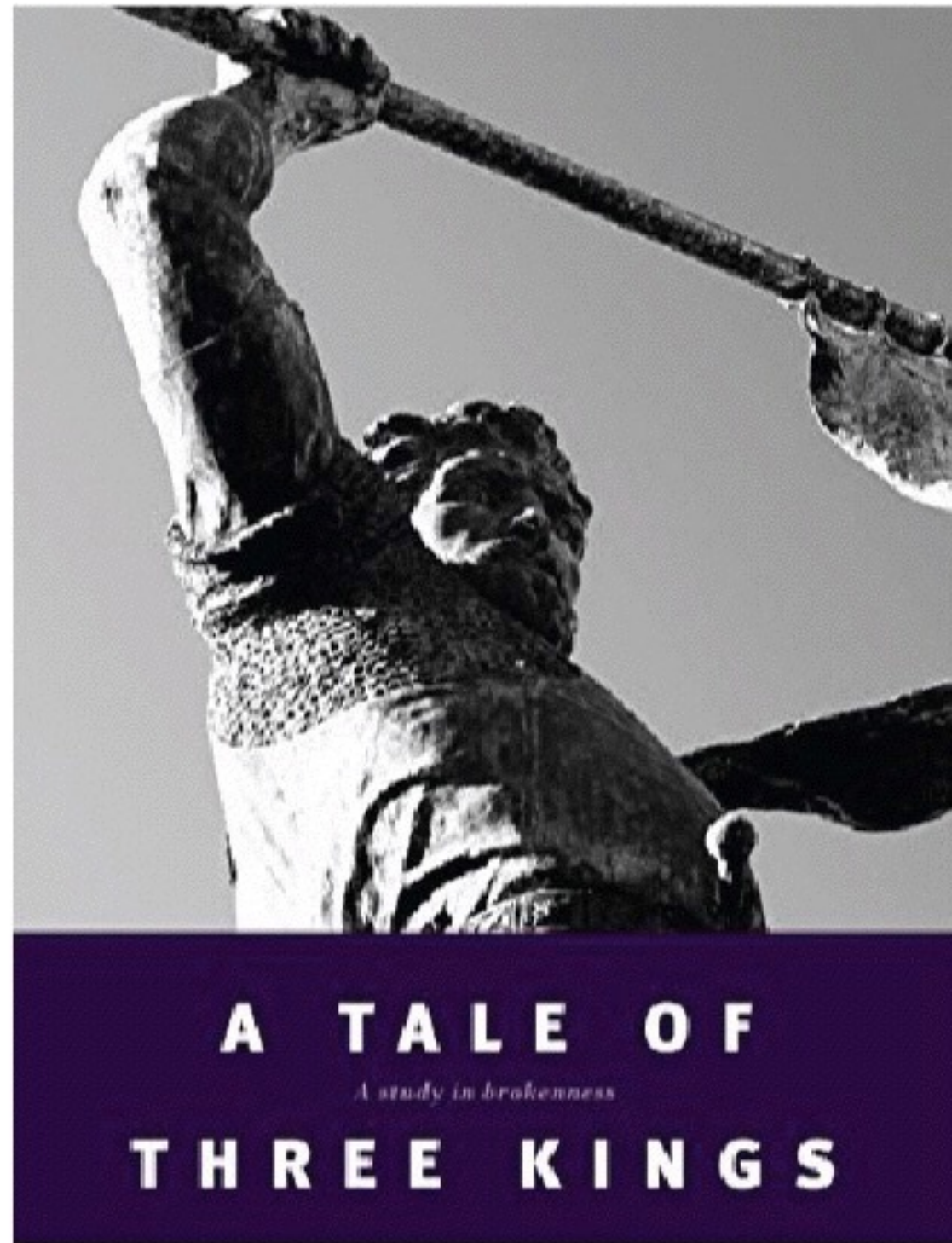
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TOUCHDOWN

HE'S ABLE TO INCREASE OUR TRUST

⁴The men said, “This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’”...⁶He said to his men, “The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD.”⁷ **With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul.** And Saul left the cave and went his way.

1 Samuel 24:4, 6-7 (NIV)



**A TALE OF
THREE KINGS**

A study in brokenness

Gene Edwards

“Because once, long ago, he was not mad. He was young. He was great. Great in the eyes of God and men. And it was God who made him King—God—not men. Better he kill me than I learn his ways. Better he kill me than I become as he is. I shall not practice the ways that cause kings to go mad. I will not throw spears, nor will I allow hatred to grow in my heart. I will not avenge. I will not destroy the Lord’s anointed. Not now. Not ever!”

- Gene Edwards, *A Tale of Three Kings*

HE DRAWS OUT OUR HUMILITY

¹⁴ **“Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Who are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea?...”** ¹⁷ “You are more righteous than I,” he said. ¹⁸ “You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. ¹⁹ You have just now told me about the good you did to me; the LORD delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. ¹⁹ When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today.

1 Samuel 24:14, 17-19 (NIV)

HE DRAWS OUT OUR HUMILITY

“Humility is the only soil in which the graces root; the lack of humility is the sufficient explanation of every defect and failure. Humility is not so much a grace or virtue along with others; it is the root of all, because it alone takes the right attitude before God, and allows Him as God to do all.” - Andrew Murray, *Humility*