



Main Passage: 1 Kings 12

Theological Theme

To receive and exercise wisdom in decision making, we must pray and seek Godly counsel.

Introduction

- ❓ Who are some of your “go to” people for different issues?
- ❓ Why is it important to ask advice from the right sources? Why is it dangerous to ask the wrong person for counsel?

1. Advice Needed (1 Kings 12:1-5)

After Solomon’s death, his son Rehoboam took the throne. He was the only son of Solomon listed by name but, as we quickly see, he was not a wise leader. He gives an example of what not to do when you need guidance about complicated decisions that come your way. Instead of strengthening the kingdom, he was instrumental in the ultimate division of Israel, and the consequences were great.

- ❓ Why do you think it is significant that Rehoboam went to where the ten tribes were? How could he have responded differently as the new king?
- ❓ When was a time you recognized God’s leading or warning but thought you knew better? What was the result?
- ❓ Application: Where might God be leading you or cautioning you right now? How do you need to respond in obedience?

2. Wisdom Rejected (1 Kings 12:6-11)

The same men that spent time with and gave counsel to Solomon were available to Rehoboam. God had used these men to provide insight and counsel for the wisest king to rule Israel. It was a hopeful sign of wisdom that Rehoboam turned to them to ask what they thought about the situation with the Israelites and how he should respond to their requests.

- ❓ Why is it important that we not simply follow norms because it's the way something has always been done? What are the dangers of following this line of thinking without seeking God's wisdom?
- ❓ When have you received sound advice but rejected it because it wasn't what you hoped to hear? What happened?
- ❓ Application: What is a difficult decision you are looking to make? How can you seek godly counsel and reject worldly wisdom, even if it's what you want to hear?

3. Kingdom Divided (1 Kings 12:12-19)

A leader needs to discern when to listen to the opinions of the people and when to stand on a different thought. Rehoboam chose wrongly and listened to the advice of his friends. This was detrimental to his reign and to the kingdom. The effects of this situation would be felt for a long time and had generational consequences.

- ❓ What are some voices you tend to listen to over God's (i.e., family, friends, your own)?
- ❓ You and I aren't royalty with reign over an entire group of people, but where do you have influence? Where are you tempted to use your own leadership or influence for selfish gain rather than godly purposes?
- ❓ Application: How much of a role does prayer play in your decision making? How can you grow in seeking God's wisdom above your own or that of other people?

Conclusion

- ❓ Do you tend to make decisions quickly? What could you do differently to weigh your choices more carefully and consider other alternatives?
- ❓ What qualities should we look for in those from whom we seek counsel in a difficult situation? How can we evaluate the advice we receive?
- ❓ How can thinking through the possible short-term and long-term consequences of a decision you are now facing save you grief and suffering? Why is prayer crucial to this process?