When We Have To Choose

Greg Kline · 1 Kings 12:1–24

INTRODUCTION

- In first Kings chapter twelve, Rehoboam had a decision to make. A decision with the weight of the kingdom upon him.
- Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you.

1 God Has Spoken

1 Kings 11:1–13

- Traits like clinging to God and wisdom are not inherited. They are found through practice and an individual relationship with the Lord being formed.
- I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant.
- Who is at fault for the kingdom being divided? At this point of the story? Solomon. Because of why? Because of Solomon's choice.
- God twice appeared to him to keep him from doing just that, and yet he did anyway. And for that God justly stepped in.

2 Rehoboam Sought Wisdom From Two Sources

1 Kings 12:6–11

- I wonder what type of decisions do I have to make because of my role in life?
- If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever.
- But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him.
- My father disciplines you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.

3 Wisdom Is Wise, No Matter Who Speaks It

1 Kings 14:21

- Consider that wisdom is wise, no matter who speaks it.
- The advice is wise or foolish based on the merit of the advice, not the person giving it.
- How old was Rehoboam? Forty-one years old. This is a man. This is a grown man facing a grown man type of decision.

4 Rehoboam Chose the Counsel of His Peers

1 Kings 12:12–24

- So the king did not listen to the people.

- He chose the counsel of his peers. He chose wrongly, not because they were young, but because the advice stinks.
- But he took counsel, and that was good. But he rejected the wise counsel. And that was bad.
- Thus says the Lord, you shall not go up or fight against your relatives to the people of Israel. Every man return to his home, for this thing is from me.

5 Will We Ignore God or Seek Him First?

1 Samuel 30:1–8

- There was someone that the text does not indicate that Rehoboam did consult. Who was that? God.
- Do I seek his counsel first, whether in prayer or through reading of his divinely inspired word?
- And David inquired of the Lord. Shall I pursue after this man? Shall I overtake them?
- Can't we just be of a nature as Christians where God is so imprinted on our heart that we just ask God because that's what we do?

6 Are We Willing to Seek Wise Counsel?

Proverbs 12:15; Proverbs 13:20; Proverbs 15:22

- The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.
- Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.
- Without counsel, plans fail, but with many advisors, they succeed. Who is your counseling team?
- But most importantly, is it someone who puts God first? Wouldn't it be someone who has been transformed by Christ?

THE CHALLENGE

Have a team of counselors. Know who you would go to in a time of trouble. And make sure they're qualified to give you godly advice. And if you don't have someone, find someone.

MY NOTES