

Who are you listening to?

Week 6, 1 Kings 11:14-14:31

1. Intro:
 - a. Often feel like I don't know what I am doing. My pattern used to be...
 - i. Try to do it on my own without asking advice
 - ii. Ask everyone and then get overwhelmed
 - b. You: how have you grown in X? What was/is your plan to be developed and grow as a spouse, parent, student, athlete, musician and so on and so forth?
 - i. Do you seek counsel? Do you seek a coach? Are you teachable? Do you think whatever comes naturally is the best? Do you listen to terrible counselors?
 - c. Bible: What about God's advice? God has lots to say, but since Gen 3 we don't really want his advice, we don't want his counsel
 - d. Today's chapters are all about people who won't listen to advice.
 - i. Maybe we can learn from them (or maybe not)
2. Solomon wouldn't listen to God, so God raises up someone else. Will the new - Jeroboam - guy listen? (1 Kings 11)
 - a. Following Solomon's sin, God raises up adversaries against the king and also announces that one of those adversaries, Jeroboam, will split off from Judah and establish his own kingdom of Israel. God ADVISES Jeroboam that if he simply walks in the ways of God, he will establish a dynasty for Jeroboam just as he promised for David. David's descendants will be temporarily humbled, but God has more than enough blessing to go around for all who listen and obey.
 - b. After Solomon dies, Jeroboam, who has been hiding in Egypt (ahem...) is voted to be the spokesman for a group of Israelites who weren't too fond of how Solomon treated them. They were sick of the taxes, the labor, the monarchy...
 - c. *"Your father made our yoke harsh. You, therefore, lighten your father's harsh service and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you." (12:4)*
3. How will Solomon's son, Rehoboam respond? After all, he grew up under the wisest king alive and he heard such wisdom from his father as:
 - a. *Let a wise person listen and increase learning, and let a discerning person obtain guidance (Proverbs 1:5)*
 - b. *A fool's way is right in his own eyes, but whoever listens to counsel is wise. (Proverbs 12:15)*
 - c. *Plans fail when there is no counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. (Proverbs 15:22)*
 - d. *Listen to counsel and receive instruction so that you may be wise later in life. (Proverbs 19:20)*
 - e. Let's see... *5 Rehoboam replied, "Go away for three days and then return to me." So the people left. 6 Then King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had*

served his father Solomon when he was alive, asking, "How do you advise me to respond to this people?" (1 Kings 12:5-6)

- f. So far, so good... maybe he did learn something from good old dad. He asks for advice. Check. He talks to older, wiser men. Check.
 - g. Their advice: *"Today if you will be a servant to this people and serve them, and if you respond to them by speaking kind words to them, they will be your servants forever." (1 Kings 12:7)*
 - h. Solomon had his ups and downs, but this is all around solid advice. Servant leadership. Excellent, wise counsel...
 - i. But the story wouldn't be saucy if he listened, would it?
 - i. *8 But he rejected the advice of the elders who had advised him and consulted with the young men who had grown up with him and attended him. 9 He asked them, "What message do you advise that we send back to this people who said to me, 'Lighten the yoke your father put on us'?"*

10 Then the young men who had grown up with him told him, "This is what you should say to this people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you, make it lighter on us!' This is what you should tell them: 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist [loins; a crude joke]! 11 Although my father burdened you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with barbed whips.'" (1 Kings 12:8-11)
 - j. The value of surrounding oneself with wise counselors was something Solomon was able to pass along to his son. The value of listening to them? Not so much.
 - k. Three days later they come together, Rehoboam gives his answer. - *When all Israel saw that the king had not listened to them, the people answered him: What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Israel, return to your tents; David, now look after your own house! (1 Kings 12:16)*
 - l. Rehoboam's problem was that he was arrogant and insecure
4. Jeroboam fulfills the Lord's prophecy and splits Israel into a Northern Kingdom and a Southern Kingdom (hence, name of our series: Two Nations Under God). Maybe Jeroboam will be different! Maybe he will listen...
- a. *12:25 Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. From there he went out and built Peniel. 26 Jeroboam said to himself, "The kingdom might now return to the house of David. 27 If these people regularly go to offer sacrifices in the Lord's temple in Jerusalem, the heart of these people will return to their lord, King Rehoboam of Judah. They will kill me and go back to the king of Judah." 28 So the king sought advice.*
 - b. Seems good, right? Wants to do a good job as king, but God had ADVISED him that the way to security was obedience and faith
 - c. Jeroboam's problem? He didn't want to trust in God - wanted to manipulate a solution by violating Deut 12:5 (place of worship)
 - d. *28b Then he made two golden calves, and he said to the people, "Going to Jerusalem is too difficult for you. Israel, here are your gods[d] who brought you*

up from the land of Egypt.” 29 He set up one in Bethel, and put the other in Dan. 30 This led to sin; the people walked in procession before one of the calves all the way to Dan.

5. Who did he go to for that advice?! God steps in to deal with the bad advice...
 - a. In response to this sin, God ADVISES a prophet to go from Judah and declare judgment upon Bethel and Jeroboam to try and turn his heart
 - b. *4 When the king heard the message that the man of God had cried out against the altar at Bethel, Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar and said, “Arrest him!” But the hand he stretched out against him withered, and he could not pull it back to himself. 5 The altar was ripped apart, and the ashes poured from the altar, according to the sign that the man of God had given by the word of the Lord. (Maybe not.) 6 Then the king responded to the man of God, “Plead for the favor of the Lord your God and pray for me so that my hand may be restored to me.” So the man of God pleaded for the favor of the Lord, and the king’s hand was restored to him and became as it had been at first. 7 Then the king declared to the man of God, “Come home with me, refresh yourself, and I’ll give you a reward.” 8 But the man of God replied, “If you were to give me half your house, I still wouldn’t go with you, and I wouldn’t eat food or drink water in this place, 9 for this is what I was commanded by the word of the Lord: ‘You must not eat food or drink water or go back the way you came.’” 10 So he went another way; he did not go back by the way he had come to Bethel.*
 - c. Finally someone who listens to what they are told!
6. But on the way home, however, a false prophet hears about the situation and comes to the prophet from Judah he asks the man to come and share a meal with him and the prophet gives him the same response he gave Jeroboam.
 - a. But the false prophet FALSELY ADVISES him that God has given him a different message and that he is supposed to come back with him to his house and eat and drink. He listens to this man rather than continuing forward in obedience to God, and it turns into his death.
7. Does anyone learn? Does anyone listen to wise counsel, godly advice? Nope.
 - a. Jeroboam’s son gets sick, disaster strikes, but he refuses to repent
 - b. Rehoboam doesn’t listen and the gold age of Solomon is replaced w/ the Bronze Age of Rehoboam
8. What does this mean for you and me?
 - a. **Ask for and receive advice.**
 - i. You shouldn’t listen to everybody, but you do need to listen to somebody.
 1. Who is that somebody? Wise counsel for Rehoboam or the young guns from his Kindergarten class.
 2. What informs the people you do ask/listen to?
 3. A wise counselor will tell you what you need to hear, not what you want to hear
 - ii. But what about those who are just complainers?

1. Some people can't wait to tell you all the stuff you do wrong. Trust me. What to do? Ignore them? Punch them? No. Turn your critics into coaches.
2. Don't ignore someone just b/c they don't communicate perfectly. It's easy to ignore ppl who stink at communication, but remember: do you perfectly communicate 100% of the time?
3. Filter things through God's truth and hear what you need to hear

b. Be teachable.

- i. *“Great leaders are great learners. But learning assumes an attitude of submission. And submission isn't something many people are comfortable with.” - Andy Stanley*
 - ii. To grow, you need to be led, you need to listen, be teachable
 - iii. Don't submit to everyone, but do submit to the right people
- c. All of this is crucial because God has something to say to you about your life!
- i. *2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*
 - ii. God wants to equip you... to mold you... to make you more like Jesus.
 - iii. This is for your good (Gal 4:19; Phil 1:6), for his glory, and for others benefit. Which leads me to the final point.

d. Invest in someone.

- i. Who are you coaching, mentoring, leading, advising? As a disciple of Jesus, you are called to invest in others so that they can become like Jesus too!
 - ii. What's the source of your wisdom?
 1. Are you plugged in? (Psalm 119, 2 Timothy 3:16-18)
 - iii. Practically how do you invest?
 1. Seek God, pray, humble yourself
 2. Observe... Instruct... Inspire...
 3. Listening, caring, celebrating, praying...Saying the hard thing... in the moment... with love and care...
 - iv. Ask God in whom you should be investing. Ask God to direct you to who you should ask to invest in you (DG leaders?).
9. Bottom Line: Many people will reap terrible consequences in their lives because they never learned to listen to the advice of others or they sought advice from all the wrong people. Humble yourself and be teachable so that you can grow into Christlikeness. Plug into godly men and women who you can learn from. Dwell in the Word of God to learn from the ultimate teacher! Who are you listening to?

DISCIPLESHIP GROUP QUESTIONS

Choose one of the following passages and do a Discovery Bible Study (www.revolvechurchnj.com/discover for more info)

- 1 Kings 12:1-18
- Jeremiah 7:21-29

Add these additional questions:

- How are you seeking godly truth?
- Would those closest to you describe you as teachable?
- Are you investing in, discipling others to live lives of truth?