

Sermon: Bad Advice

Text: 2 Chronicles 10

Discussion:

Discuss these various quotes regarding the giving of advice:

“If you can tell the difference between good advice and bad advice, you don't need advice.”
Laurence J. Peter

“It seems that bad advice that's fun will always be better known than good advice that's dull—no matter how useless that fun advice is.” Scott Berkun

“Old people like to give good advice as a consolation for the fact that they can no longer set bad examples.” Joseph Epstein

“A good man giving bad advice is more dangerous than a nasty man giving bad advice.”
Conor Cruise O'Brien

“I don't think people take bad advice. They've got intuition too, you know. In fact I'd be surprised if they take any advice at all.” Anne Tyler

“There is hardly a person on earth who will take advice unless they are certain that it is positively bad.” John Burroughs

“You had better not open that door.” Anonymous

“Bad advice is often most fatal to the adviser.” Aulus Persius Flaccus

“Every time you make a bad choice, it becomes harder to make a good one.”
Rick Warren

“No enemy is worse—and there is nothing more hateful—than bad advice.” Sophocles

“Bad advice will blind you. Good advice will instruct you. Great advice will enlighten you.”
Mashona Dhilwayo

“He that gives good advice, builds with one hand; he that gives good advice and positive example builds with both; he that gives good advice and bad example, builds with one hand and pulls down with the other.” Francis Bacon

“It's hard to make out the difference between insults and bad advice.” Cass McCombs

“Nothing is more confusing than people who give good advice but set a bad example.”
Norman Vincent Peale

Examination:

- Read **2 Chronicles 10**

- It might seem like a small detail in verse 1, that Solomon's son Rehoboam went to Shechem to be anointed as the next king. But it begs an immediate question: Why not Jerusalem? Why not at the temple, and in the capital and spiritual center of the twelve tribes? Yes, it is true that Shechem was a city with a rich history. Abraham worshipped there (Genesis 12:6). Jacob built an altar and purchased land there (Genesis 33:18-20). Joseph was buried there (Joshua 24:32). And yes, it was also the geographical center of the northern tribes. But why do you think Rehoboam made this decision? Might it reveal that Rehoboam was in a position of weakness, having to meet the ten northern tribes on *their* territory, instead of demanding that representatives come to Jerusalem? What are the spiritual implications of this decision?
- Read 1 Kings 11:26-40 to learn who Jereboam was, and what God had already told him through a prophet.
- We know that Solomon was an exceedingly wealthy king (2 Chron 9:13-22). According to verse 4, where did much of this wealth come from? What impact did this have on the people and the nation?
- What advice did Rehoboam receive from the elders who had been around for many years, and had advised Solomon?
- What turning point do we see in verse 8? Why was this such a critical decision—made at a very critical time?
- What advice do Rehoboam's "buddies" give him? Why do you think they gave this advice? Why do you think Rehoboam acted on their advice (vv. 13-14)?
- Verse 15 takes us out of the lower story, and gives us a glimpse of the upper story. WHY did Rehoboam ultimately do what he did? What does this insight, provided by the writer of Chronicles (Jewish tradition holds that Ezra wrote it), tell us about God's sovereign hand over the events on earth?
- What did Rehoboam's decision to listen to the bad advice of his childhood pals ultimately lead to (see the last few verses of chapter 10 and all of chapter 11)?

- Read **2 Chronicles 12:1-14**

- The ominous events of chapter 10 ultimately lead to the results of chapter 12. What kind of leader did Rehoboam turn out to be?
- What did God say to Rehoboam through the prophet Shemaiah (v. 5)?
- What do you make of verse 6? How does God respond when we humble ourselves?
- Verse 14 provides the key for understanding the entire life and reign of Rehoboam. It tells us why he rejected the advice of the elders, and listened to the bad advice of his childhood friends. It tells us why he led the nation away from God. What is that reason?

Application:

Evaluate your life in light of 2 Chronicles 12:14. Have you set your heart on seeking the Lord? Are you walking in relationship with God, and involving Him in your daily life? What bad advice are you listening to—and what good advice SHOULD you be listening to?