



Rehoboam

Following Good Counsel

Foolish Counsel

Rehoboam followed the advice that appealed to his flesh instead of what was best for the nation. His friends lifted him up and made him feel powerful and mighty. This carried over to his response to the people. Follow me, or else. The people chose or else and Rehoboam lost part of the kingdom. Look to do what's right and not what pleases the flesh.

Consider the Consequences

Rehoboam failed to consider the consequences of his decision. He spoke to proud and prosperous people in an arrogant manner. He all but dared them to rebel, and they did. Had he thought things through Rehoboam probably would have made a different choice. The lesson, consider all things before speaking or acting.

Foolish Pride

Rehoboam was proud, weak, and impulsive. This was due to the fact that he did not walk in the ways of the LORD. For a short period of time he did that which was right but eventually his worldly heart manifested itself. The king permitted and promoted idolatry. That's also why he followed poor counsel, Rehoboam walked after his ways and not the LORD'S. Because of this he answered the people harshly and foolishly sent Adoram to his death. The king trusted in his abilities instead of relying upon the LORD. Walk with God and overcome foolish pride.

Lessons for Leaders

A good leader cares for those he leads.

Rehoboam ascended to the throne of an unsettled kingdom. Although Israel was wealthy and powerful, people were displeased with the leadership. In a show of defiance, the people complained of being overburdened. Was this true? Maybe, maybe not. But since they perceived it to be true, they demanded and expected some changes. More than anything else, it seems they wanted a leader that would hear them out and act in their best interest.

Rehoboam was given an opportunity to keep the kingdom united. If he listened to their grievances and conceded in some areas, they would follow him as king. He did not have to resign his position or throw out his convictions, just humbly serve the people. Simple and obvious, one would think. Solomon's advisers, whom Rehoboam heard but ignored, understood that his gratitude towards the people would produce more loyalty than their fear of him, so the king was encouraged to listen to the people, respond kindly, and lighten their load. However, due to poor counsel from friends, Rehoboam believed fear to be the answer. He threatened to crush them with more burdens and chastise them with cruel punishments, and with that foolish logic lost half his kingdom. Rehoboam forgot, or failed to consider, that without the people there is no king.

Leaders must be willing to serve those they lead, if they plan to lead them for long.

Facts for Families

We hope our children make wise choices.

Rehoboam was the son of the wisest man on earth, but one would not know it based upon his poor decisions. He acted like a fool and made a mess of things. What went wrong? How could Solomon's son fail in such a manner?

Here are some thoughts to consider.

Wisdom is not Inherited – wise parents do not always raise wise children, just like foolish children are not always the result of foolish parents. We find that children will sometimes go a different direction than their parents, whether that be good or bad. In this case, the wisest man on earth gave way to a proud and foolish man. Each person must make their own decisions and be accountable for them.

Wisdom is Imparted – true wisdom comes from the LORD. He imparts wisdom to those that seek after Him and ask for it. Solomon wanted the LORD'S wisdom, and received it, but evidently his son had no desire for it. This is a personal matter – those that want the LORD'S wisdom will ask for it.

Wisdom is Important – without wisdom troubles may multiply, often quickly, as Rehoboam found out. With the LORD'S wisdom one is able to discern right from wrong and make correct choices. Had Rehoboam sought the LORD'S wisdom he might have avoided the foolish mistakes that divided his kingdom. Why endure difficulties when you can avoid them with wisdom from above?

Seek the wisdom of God and teach your children to do so as well.