

Critical Condition: Second Opinion

December 4, 2011

Vol. 1 Num. 29

1 KINGS 12

This Week's Core Competency:

Humility- I choose to esteem others above myself.

Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3-4)

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Introduction

Steve Jobs, the co-founder and creative genius for the Apple Computer Corporation, acknowledged that he made a mistake by not heeding sound medical advice when his small, slow growing pancreatic cancer was discovered. He refused to have what likely could have been life-saving surgery to remove the cancer. The reason he decided against it was that he felt it was too extreme, too invasive. He thought there had to be a way to find a cure without the severe measure of surgery. He found proponents of alternative medicine who readily offered the advice he wanted to hear. Having discovered treatments that he found more palatable, he tried a variety of exotic diets, exercise, and unproven therapies that he hoped would produce the healing he desired. Nine months later, when he decided to have surgery, the cancer had already spread to the tissue surrounding the pancreas. The rest is history.

Our passage begins with Solomon's death. Poised to take the throne, Rehoboam, his son, faced a critical decision. He sought the advice of the elders who had regularly advised his father. However, he didn't like the concessions that they suggested would help him retain leadership over all of Israel. Instead, he turned to his buddies to see if they had a solution that he liked better. Much like Steve Jobs, he found advisors who readily offered the advice that he wanted to hear. When they provided a more palatable solution, he embraced it with disastrous results.

This Week

As you study 1 Kings 12, consider how you handle difficult situations or decisions in your life. Do you seek Godly counsel when you are not sure how to move forwards? As you look for direction, humbly seek God, consider what actions would both honor him, and reflect his character.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read 1 Kings 11: 14-34

1 Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king.

2 When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard about it, for he was still in Egypt where he had fled from King Solomon's presence, Jeroboam stayed in Egypt.

3 They summoned him, and Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam:

4 "Your father made our yoke difficult. You, therefore, lighten your father's harsh service and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you."

5 Rehoboam replied, "Go home 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 these people?"

7 They replied, "Today if you will be a servant to these people and serve them, and if you respond to them by speaking kind words to them, they will be your servants forever."

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 served him.

9 He asked them, "What message do you advise that we send back to these 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 these 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 loins!'"

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."

12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, as the king had ordered: "Return to me on the third day."

13 Then the king answered the people harshly. He rejected the advice the elders had given him

14 and spoke to them according to the young men's advice: "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with

whips, but I will discipline you with barbed whips."

15 The king did not listen to the people, because this turn of events came from the LORD to carry out His word, which the LORD had spoken through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam son of Nebat.

16 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! So Israel went to their tents,

17 but Rehoboam reigned over the Israelites living in the cities of Judah.

18 Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was in charge of forced labor, but all Israel stoned him to death. King Rehoboam managed to get into the chariot and flee to Jerusalem.

19 Israel is in rebellion against the house of David until today.

20 When all Israel heard that Jeroboam had come back, they summoned him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. No one followed the house of David except the tribe of Judah alone.

21 When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he mobilized 180,000 choice warriors from the entire house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin to fight against the house of Israel to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam son of Solomon.

22 But a revelation from God came to Shemaiah, the man of God:

23 "Say to Rehoboam son of Solomon, king of Judah, to the whole house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people,

24 'This is what the LORD says: You are not to march up and fight against your brothers, the Israelites. Each of you must return home, for I have done this.' " So they listened to what the LORD said and went back as He had told them.

25 Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. From there he went out and built Penuel.

26 Jeroboam said to himself, "The way things are going now, the kingdom might 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, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will murder me and go back to the king of Judah."

28 So the king sought advice. Then he made two golden calves, and he said to the people, "Going to Jerusalem is too difficult for you. Israel, here is your God who brought you out of 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.

31 Jeroboam also built shrines on the high places

and set up priests from every class of people who were not Levites.

32 Jeroboam made a festival in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the festival in Judah. He offered sacrifices on the altar; he made this offering in Bethel to sacrifice to the calves he had set up. He also stationed the priests in Bethel for the high places he had set up.

33 He offered sacrifices on the altar he had set up in Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month. He chose this month on his own. He made a festival for the Israelites, offered sacrifices on the altar, and burned incense.

EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. Verse 3 says, "They summoned him (Jeroboam)." Who are "they" and why do you think they summoned Jeroboam?
2. Explain Israel's demands. Do you think they were reasonable?
3. Why do you suppose that Rehoboam demonstrated poor judgment with regard to the advice he both sought and selected?
4. What factors, either good or bad, affect who you go to for advice and whether you accept or reject that advice?
5. What do the following scriptures say about advice, insight, understanding, or guidance? Which verses are particularly meaningful to you and why?
 - a) Proverbs 1:3-5
 - b) Proverbs 2:3-9

c) Proverbs 3:5-6

d) Proverbs 13:10

6. Compare Rehoboam in verse 14 with Christ in Philippians 2:5-11. Describe their responses. What does this suggest about their characters?

	Rehoboam (see 1 Kings 12:14)	Christ (see Philippians 2:5-11)
Response		
Character traits		
Results		

7. In what relationship might God be calling you to set yourself aside and follow the example of Jesus from Philippians 2:3-4?

8. Given that verse 15 says, “This turn of events came from the Lord,” and that idea is repeated in verse 24, do you think that the Lord caused Rehoboam to sin? Explain your answer.

9. Why do you suppose that Rehoboam listened to what the Lord said in verse 24 and turned away from a civil war?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

In one statement, write what God wants you to KNOW...

In one statement, write how God wants you to FEEL...

In one statement, write what God wants you to DO...

Sermon Notes

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ