

I. Experience Speaks - 1 Kings 12:6-7

1. Rehoboam consulted the elders (**verse 6**)
 - he asked for advice
2. Give them a “favorable” answer and they will always be your servants (**verse 7**)
3. Leaders ought use their position to help the people - Is. 22:15-21
 - servant leadership

Rea - Ideas and Questions:

1. Wise leaders seek counsel before they act
2. Leaders ought to serve
 - discuss leaders who don't serve
 - discuss leaders who want to BE served

II. Arrogance Reigns - 1 Kings 12:8-15

1. Rehoboam rejected their advice (**verse 8**) - the elders
 - instead he sought the advice of those with whom he'd grown up (**verse 9**)

Rea - quickly it becomes an older vs younger advice issue

Rea - should I lighten their load?

Rea - the load is from building projects

Rea - taxes
2. Reply my little finger is thicker than my father's waist (**verse 10**)

Rea - they only told him what he wanted to hear

Rea - he was greater than his father
3. My father's yoke was heavy - mine will be heavier (**verse 11**)
 - whips vs scorpions
4. The king answered harshly (**verse 12**)
 - he rejected the elders wisdom
 - he followed the advice of the young men
5. The king did not listen to the people
 - so, the reign moved to Jeroboam
 - God worked through the arrogance of Rehoboam to make Jeroboam king

Rea - God uses bad men to work His good will

Rea Ideas and Questions:

1. So, God uses the evil man
 - “You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good”
2. Rehoboam and Jeroboam represent to vastly different leadership styles
 - seems a bit simplistic but makes some great points
3. What's the use of asking advice, if you're not going to take it?
4. Discuss older vs younger advice

III. Division Ensues - 1 Kings 12:16-19

1. What share do we have in David? (**Verse 16**)
 - what do we care what David did?
 - to your tents - look after your own business
2. The Israelites still in Judah - Rehoboam still ruled over them (**verse 17**)

3. Adoniram was sent out to make the people work (**verse 18**)
- forced labor
- Rea -draft or slavery?
- so, he was stoned to death - but Rehoboam was able to escape
4. And... Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day (**verse 19**)
- unity with Saul and David and Solomon is now divided
 - we ought examine motives in the decisions we make
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. A lot to be said to leaders and leadership in the way they went about their decisions
 2. Not a lot said about God, or His will in all of this
 3. Discuss where conflict within the church comes from
 4. Do our administrative decisions matter?

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