



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 25

Lesson Title: Listen to God's Warning

Take Home Point: Listen to God's warning.

Warm-Up:

Our world is so full of examples of the wisdom of heeding warnings that it's hard to pick out just one example! They range from the occasionally humorous, such as "Wet Paint. Do Not Touch," to the very serious, such as "Don't Drink and Drive." How many needless deaths and injuries are inflicted because people do not think anything will happen to them? Or how about the warning label on cigarette packages? Do we see an enormous reduction in smokers in our country? What about when your mom or dad told you to stop doing something or you would be in trouble? Did you always stop right then? Warnings are generally stated to protect someone from harm. That's why they are called warnings.

Read: 1 Kings 12:25-14:20; 15:25-30

Observation (What happened?):

Why did Jeroboam build the two golden calves?

What did God say (through the prophet Ahijah) would happen to Jeroboam's family because of his sin and rebellion?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think the story of the man of God and the lying prophet was included in this account? What lesson does it teach?

What does the Bible indicate regarding repentance on Jeroboam's part even after his son died?

Insight:

In 1 Kings 12:28-31, we read about Jeroboam establishing idols and encouraging worship against the law of God. The instituting of these idols seemed so sudden, yet apparently the people of Israel didn't have a problem with it. Why not? Because, over the past few years, Solomon had done the very same thing for his foreign wives! Although I'm sure King Solomon intended only to please his wives, what really happened was that he poisoned the entire nation regarding idol worship. He was responsible to lead Israel toward God in true worship; instead he did exactly the opposite. And notice that Jeroboam built the idols only after seeking advice. Jeroboam had an opportunity to reverse the trend, but he chose to hasten the stampede to sin. You and I have the same opportunity in our soul and in our world. Every day we can choose to move toward God or away from him; there is no middle ground. And just like King Solomon, our choices affect those around us in ways we cannot anticipate. We need to choose God.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What warning is God giving you regarding sin? What warning might he be giving you?

Pray that your heart remains soft toward God and hard toward sin.

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