



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 24

Lesson Title: Too Big for Your Britches

Take Home Point: Listen to God and his advice.

Warm-Up:

My oldest daughter was born strong-willed. From her earliest years, she was intent on doing everything herself without counsel or assistance from others, particularly her parents. Occasionally, this would lead to some amusing situations. For example, one evening during the time of her potty training, we asked if she needed to go to the bathroom. She whipped around, thrust her finger in my face, and said, "NO! AND DON'T EVER ASK ME AGAIN!" Though this instance was inconsequential, it demonstrated a serious tendency. As she grew, she seemed to gravitate toward friends who gave her bad ideas and ungodly advice, with predictable results. She is still working on making good decisions based on wise counsel of others.

Read: 1 Kings 12:1-24 and 14:21–15:8

Observation (What happened?):

How many tribes of Israel remained loyal to Rehoboam after he told the people he would tax and work them even harder than his father?

According to 1 Kings 14:22-24, what did Judah do under the leadership of Rehoboam?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Rehoboam chose to listen to the young advisors?

It was only 34 years from the completion of the temple until Egypt attacked. How do you suppose the people who had been there for the dedication felt when the temple was ransacked?

Insight:

In 1 Kings 14:21 and 31, the writer emphasizes that Rehoboam's mother was an Ammonite. Why? To make the point that disobeying God has consequences, and that listening to someone who counsels other than God's way also has consequences. Solomon disobeyed God in marrying his foreign wives. No doubt at the time he was more interested in his own gratification or political advantage, and gave no thought to the long-term effects on his children and kingdom. Since his father was busy being king, it is likely that Rehoboam spent his formative time with his mother. We can learn from this and apply several lessons to our own lives: Our worldview is affected by those to whom we listen. Disobedience has consequences far beyond what we may think. We need to offer godly counsel based on God's word.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

As you lead people – your small group, your family, perhaps employees at work – what qualities does God want you to display?

In what specific area of your life do you need to listen for God's advice? Are you listening? How?

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