

May 3 2023 \_\_\_ Making Decisions P3

## **Wednesday Night Bible Study**

Wednesday 03 May 2023 – Spring Semester  
Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705

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### **Making Decisions According to God's Direction for Your Life**

**Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)**

"In their hearts, humans plan their course, but  
the Lord establishes their steps."

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### **3. If You Don't Know Ask Somebody.**

"Plans succeed through good counsel;  
don't go to war without wise advice."  
(Proverbs 20:18 NLT)

**Week 1:** The Power of Prayer

**Week 2:** What are the Facts?

**Week 3: If you don't know ask Somebody.**

**Week 4:** Count the Cost

**Week 5:** Expect Complications

**Week 6:** Facing the Giant of Fear

After we pray and research the facts, we need to seek godly counsel.

#### **Q = Why is it important to seek godly counsel?**

We seldom have the privilege of foresight in our own situations. Therefore, we must allow the Holy Spirit through His Word, and others to provide us with the wisdom and counsel to keep us on the right path.

#### **Q = Why should we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in selecting a godly counselor?**

**1) Evidence of our salvation is our obedience to the Holy Spirit—  
Romans 8:14**

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."

**2) The Holy Spirit controls the movement of all Believers—Acts 10:17-20**

17 Peter was very perplexed. What could the vision mean? Just then the men sent by Cornelius found Simon's house. Standing outside the gate, 18 they asked if a man named Simon Peter was staying there.

19 Meanwhile, as Peter was puzzling over the vision, the Holy Spirit said to him, "Three men have come looking for you. 20 Get up, go downstairs, and go with them without hesitation. Don't worry, for I have sent them."

**3) The Holy Spirit guides believers into all Truth [Word]—John 16:13**

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

Seeking godly counsel is wise and should be one of the steps toward making good decisions.

**Proverbs 11:14 (World English Bible)**

"Where there is no wise guidance, the nation falls, but there is victory in the multitude of counselors."

**Message Bible**

**"Without good direction, people lose their way; the wiser counsel you follow, the better your chances."**

Examples of godly counselors

- 1) God sent Nathan the Prophet to confront King David about his adultery and murder—**2 Samuel 11-12**
- 2) Abigail counseled David about not killing her husband Nabal (who was a fool)—**1 Samuel 25**

3) When we bear and share one another's burdens is a form of godly counsel—**Galatians 6:1-3**

1 Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

2 Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

3 If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.

### **Example**

**King Rehoboam** was the King of Judah, the son, and successor of King Solomon. Jeroboam returns from Egypt and leads ten tribes in demanding a reduction in taxes.

Under the influence of ungodly counsel from the young homeboys he hung with, King Rehoboam rejected the godly counsel of the older men (who were advisors for King David and King Solomon).

He turns down the request of the ten northern tribes. Instead of reducing taxes, he threatened to raise them. As a result, Jeroboam leads the ten tribes (that could have served under King Rehoboam's leadership) in revolt

Jeroboam divides the nation religiously as well as politically by setting up a golden café in Bethel and one in the tribe of Dan. This caused the Northern tribes, that once served the Almighty God, to go into idolatry.

**Scripture: 1 King 12:1-19**

1 Rehoboam went to Shechem, where all Israel had gathered to make him king. 2 When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard of this, he returned from Egypt, for he had fled to Egypt to escape from King Solomon.

3 The leaders of Israel summoned him, and Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel went to speak with Rehoboam. 4 "Your father was a hard master," they said. "Lighten the harsh labor demands and heavy taxes that your father imposed on us. Then we will be your loyal subjects."

#### **Counsel from wise men of the kingdom**

5 Rehoboam replied, "Give me three days to think this over. Then come back for my answer." So the people went away.

6 Then King Rehoboam discussed the matter with the older men who had counseled his father, Solomon. "What is your advice?" he asked. "How should I answer these people?"

7 The older counselors replied, "If you are willing to be a servant to these people today and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your loyal subjects."

#### **Rehoboam's rejection of wise counsel**

8 But Rehoboam rejected the advice of the older men and instead asked the opinion of the young men who had grown up with him and were now his advisers. 9 "What is your advice?" he asked them. "How should I answer these people who want me to lighten the burdens imposed by my father?"

#### **Rehoboam receives unwise counsel**

10 The young men replied, "This is what you should tell those complainers who want a lighter burden: 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist! 11 Yes, my father laid heavy burdens on you, but I'm going to make them even heavier! My father beat you with whips, but I will beat you with scorpions!'"

12 Three days later Jeroboam and all the people returned to hear Rehoboam's decision, just as the king had ordered. 13 But Rehoboam spoke harshly to the people, for he rejected the advice of the older counselors 14 and followed the counsel of his younger advisers. He told the people, "My father laid heavy burdens

on you, but I'm going to make them even heavier! My father beat you with whips, but I will beat you with scorpions!"

15 So the king paid no attention to the people. This turn of events was the will of the Lord, for it fulfilled the Lord's message to Jeroboam son of Nebat through the prophet Ahijah from Shiloh.

16 When all of Israel realized that the king had refused to listen to them, they responded, "Down with the dynasty of David! We have no interest in the son of Jesse. Back to your homes, O Israel! Look out for your own house, O David!" So the people of Israel returned home. 17 But Rehoboam continued to rule over the Israelites who lived in the towns of Judah.

### **The Consequences of receiving unwise counsel**

18 King Rehoboam sent Adoniram, who was in charge of forced labor, to restore order, but the people of Israel stoned him to death. When this news reached King Rehoboam, he quickly jumped into his chariot and fled to Jerusalem. 19 And to this day the northern tribes of Israel have refused to be ruled by a descendant of David

### **Q = How do we detect unwise counsel from wise counsel?**

- 1) **There is little or no mention of keeping godly integrity first.**

#### **1 King 12:7**

"7 The older counselors replied, "If you are willing to be a servant to these people today and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your loyal subjects."

- 2) **There's an absence of prayer.**

#### **Luke 18:1**

"And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart."

- 3) **They will suggest a course of action that is not Scriptural—it may sound right, but does it align with Scripture?**

### **1 King 12:10-11**

"The young men replied, "This is what you should tell those complainers who want a lighter burden: 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist!

11 Yes, my father laid heavy burdens on you, but I'm going to make them even heavier! My father beat you with whips, but I will beat you with scorpions!"

#### **4) They are very critical of godly leadership.**

### **Hebrews 13:7**

"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith."

#### **5) They will offer suggested readings or point you to something that has nothing to do with the Word of God**

### **Psalms 119:105**

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

#### **6) They offer you advice that you're in agreement with—because it's what you want to hear**

### **Proverbs 13:10**

Pride leads to conflict; those who take advice are wise.

#### **7) They offer advice to control you or manipulate you into doing something they want to see happen that will benefit them and not you**

### **1 Kings 12:10-11**

The young men replied, "This is what you should tell those complainers who want a lighter burden: 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist!

Yes, my father laid heavy burdens on you, but I'm going to make them even heavier! My father beat you with whips, but I will beat you with scorpions!"

- 8) There are counselors that will give you advice just to create in you a dependency upon them and not God—they want you to continue to come back to them and not to depend on God.**

**Psalms 16:7-8**

7 I will bless the Lord who guides me; even at night, my heart instructs me.

8 I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.

**Proverbs 12:15**

Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.

**Proverbs 15:22**

Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success.

**Proverbs 24:5-6**

5 The wise are mightier than the strong, and those with knowledge grow stronger and stronger.

6 So don't go to war without wise guidance; victory depends on having many advisers.

**Psalms 73:23-24**

23 Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.

24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward, you will take me into glory.

**Isaiah 30:21**

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."