

It's Not Too Late to Listen

1 Kings 12:16–24

Introduction

Last week, we saw how Rehoboam's refusal to listen to wise counsel led him to make a foolish decision that would cost him most of the kingdom. Today, we will see the consequences of that decision and how God's word continued to unfold just as He had declared.

The Background

- **Jeroboam** – a servant of Solomon who fled to Egypt because Solomon wanted him dead.
- God had already declared that He would take most of the kingdom away from Solomon's family because of Solomon's disobedience (1 Kings 11).
- The prophet Ahijah told Jeroboam that God would give him ten of the tribes of Israel.

The People's Request

- The people were not asking for a different king.
- All they wanted was relief from the heavy burdens of labor and taxes.
- They were willing to serve Rehoboam if he would listen to them.

The Decision

- The older, wiser men advised Rehoboam to serve the people, treat them kindly, and speak encouraging words.
- But Rehoboam rejected their counsel and listened to the younger men.
- He told the people, ***"You thought my father was hard on you? Just wait until you see how hard I'm going to be."***

Pride closes our ears to wise counsel, and it can lead to consequences we cannot undo.

Understanding the People's Response

1 Kings 12:16

"When all Israel saw that
the king refused to listen to them,
they answered the king:
'What share do we have in David,
what part in Jesse's son?
To your tents, Israel!
Look after your own house, David!'
So the Israelites went home."

What It Means

- The people were angry because Rehoboam refused to listen.
- They no longer recognized the authority of David's descendants over them.
- "To your tents, Israel!" was a call for everyone to go home to their own tribes and stop supporting Rehoboam.
- What began as a request for relief had now become a complete rejection of the king's authority.

1 Kings 12:17–24

"But as for the Israelites who were
living in the towns of Judah,
Rehoboam still ruled over them."

Key Truths

- Rehoboam's foolishness caused the division of the kingdom.
- God had already declared this would happen because of Solomon's disobedience.
- This was the beginning of the fulfillment of God's promise to leave one tribe under David's house for the sake of His covenant.

Key Lessons for Us

Listen to wise counsel.
Good advice can help us avoid costly mistakes.

Our decisions have consequences.
What we choose today can affect many tomorrow.

God is still in control.
Even when people make foolish decisions, God's plans and promises stand.

It's not too late to obey.
We can't always change the consequences of our decisions, but we can choose to obey God in what we do next.

Apply It

1. Rehoboam rejected the advice of the _____ men and listened to the _____ men.
2. God left one _____ under David's house for the sake of His promise to David.

Challenge Question

Where in your life do you need to let go of pride and be willing to listen to and obey God's counsel?