

Faith connection for the week of: October 11, 2020  
SERIES: "Godly Character: lessons from Jeremiah"

This week: "**Seeking and listening to wise counsel**"  
Jeremiah 42

**PRAYER HERE OR LATER IF MEETING AS A GROUP**

**OPENING QUESTION**

*When do you remember getting counsel from somebody about something?*

**DISCUSSION**

**FIRST**—*what was the most encouraging, troubling, or challenging thought from Sunday's message?*

**SECOND**—*where do we go to get wise counsel?*

**THIRD**—*what are some instances where we might seek to get wise counsel from others?*

**FOURTH**—*why is it that people do not at times listen to wise counsel?*

**STUDY**—the following are examples of people who sought answers but did not follow the advice given. Look at what occurred in these instances.

### **1 KINGS 12:1-15: Rehoboam**

Note: just by way of reminder, Rehoboam is the son of Solomon and grandson of David.

**FIRST**—from v. 1-4—note the request given by the people.

Question—this is fairly obvious, but what do you sense is behind the request?

**SECOND**—from v. 5—Rehoboam does what Jeremiah did in the sense of not answering right away.

Question—what is the wisdom in that?

Question—what are times when we should wait to answer?

Question—how can we develop a habit of ‘holding our tongue’ before answering too quickly?

**THIRD**—from verses 6-7

Question—the question that always comes to my mind is: why didn’t these elders counsel Solomon in what they are suggesting here?

Question—OR.....if not already answered—why wouldn’t Solomon heed their counsel?

**FOURTH**—from verses 8-11

Question—why ask the older elders if he did not plan to follow their advice?

Question—why do you think these younger leaders thought the way they thought?

**FIFTH**—from verses 12-15—just note the next sequence of events that took place here.

Key into verse 15 and the phrase that: “it was a turn of events from the Lord.”

Question—how can we view things through God’s lens instead of our own and realize that many times when what we may see as ‘bad’--is God working behind the scenes for His good?

**SIXTH**—from v. 16—notice the result of the actions of Rehoboam.

Do you have any further thoughts from these verses?

JEREMIAH 38:14-39:10: **Jehoiakim**

**FIRST**—from 38:14—just note the king sending for Jeremiah.

**SECOND**—38:15—note the two responses given by Jeremiah.

Question—remember that the prophet is speaking to a king—how can we trust in the Lord enough to be this bold in our responses?

**THIRD**—38:16—Jehoiakim WILL keep his promise in not killing Jeremiah.

Question—what do you think when someone swears that they are telling the truth or uses a phrase like “to be honest?”

**FOURTH**—38:17-18

Question—do you notice the parallel here with what Jeremiah told the remnant in chapter 42-44?

Question—it is a ‘logical hypothesis’ {meaning we can wonder what would have happened but since it didn’t—we will never know} but what do you believe would have happened if the king had listened to Jeremiah?

**FIFTH**—39:4-8—just read and be ‘sad.’

Question—why is it that the Israelites so often strayed from what they knew was right?

Question—how do we develop a habit of seeking and listening to counsel?

Any final thoughts?