

## Choosing Your Advisors

April 6, 2014

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**Proverb 11:14** Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety.

**Proverb 15:22** Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

**Proverb 24:6** For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counselors *there is* safety.

We have, over the last several weeks, been learning from the Lord how to live a life of joy and happiness.

Just knowing that the Lord wants us happy, that He desires only the best for us, is truly half the battle.

There are a lot of factors involved in a generally happy life; do you remember the ABCs?

Abiding in Christ,  
Bearing fruit for the Father's glory;  
Continuing in His love.

When we are doing these things, there is joy in life that circumstances cannot take away.

There are however in life some joy killers that we all must face. There are unforeseen events that we cannot control: death of loved ones; health and financial struggles; situations involving relationships and others that, although they cannot destroy our joy, they can diminish it for a time.

These we turn over to the Lord to handle and He does just that.

There are other joy killers that are simply a result of our own poor decisions. These are by far the biggest enemies of our joy.

This is the area that the Lord is addressing for us today.

Pastor Turk used to say, "Before I knew the Lord, I thought Church was for women and kids and men who didn't know how to run their lives... and after I was saved, I discovered that Church was for women and kids and men who didn't know how to run their lives."

The truth is that none of us know how to run our lives. None of us have the answers. None of us are the originators of success. For everything any of us ever do well, we all had to learn it from somebody else or by the experience of trial and error; often mostly error.

All the good advice any of us will ever need for a life of joy and happiness is out there; the problem is that it is mixed in with a lot of bad advice.

The surest way to get good advice is to choose the right advisor. You don't already know what the good advice is or you wouldn't be seeking it.

But you can tell a lot by observing the one(s) from whom you are seeking the advice.

Choosing good advisors in life is critical to your happiness and success.

You who are a part of Lighthouse are blessed in ways you may not even realize. One of them is that you rub shoulders every week with a lot of wisdom and a good number of fellow believers who do what they do very well and would be willing to give you the kind of advice we all desperately need.

I want to read you a story of a king; a king who was the son of a great king; a king who could have been a great king, except for one thing.

His name was Rehoboam: he was the son of the wisest man (outside of Jesus) who ever lived. His father was King Solomon.

**1Kings 11:43** And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David his

father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

### **1Kings 12:1-14**

- 1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.
- 2 And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard *of it*, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;)
- 3 That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spoke unto Rehoboam, saying,
- 4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.
- 5 And he said unto them, Depart yet *for* three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.
- 6 And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?
- 7 And they spoke unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants forever.
- 8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, *and* which stood before him:

- 9 And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?
- 10 And the young men that were grown up with him spoke unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spoke unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou *it* lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little *finger* shall be thicker than my father's loins.
- 11 And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.
- 12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day.
- 13 And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;
- 14 And spoke to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father *also* chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

**1Kings 12:19** So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.

This young king had a multitude of counselors alright, but he listened to the wrong multitude of counselors. By simply choosing the wrong advisors, he plunged a nation into division and

wars and loss of life and loss of productivity beyond measure for centuries.

What is the lack of advice or the bad advice you have been getting costing you and your family today?

You may even be getting similar advice from a lot of different people; but you need to make sure it is wise and righteous advice.

Let me show you a verse of scripture that illustrates the ultimate bad advice from a multitude of counselors.

**Mark 15:1** And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried *him* away, and delivered *him* to Pilate.

My how life would have been different had I, early on, some good mentors who could have advised me...and, of course, had I been willing to heed that advice.

Today I will share with you some practical advice about advice; if only we are not too proud to take it:

## **I. Face the fact that you need it.**

*A. If you knew what to do, all those messed up, dysfunctional areas of your life would not be what they are.*

1. The greatest enemy of good counsel is pride.
2. Most of us are too proud to admit, even to ourselves, that we just don't have the answers we need.

*B. The Bible shows us in King Solomon the attitude we all ought to start out with.*

### **1.1 Kings 3:7-9**

7 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I *am but* a little child: I know not *how* to go out or come in.

8 And thy servant *is* in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

2. **1 Corinthians 8:2** And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.

3. **James 4:6** ...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

4. Would you like to test your level of pride? Answer this question: Do you often seek advice in areas of life in which you are not

particularly successful? If your answer is “No,” maybe you ought to ask yourself, “Why?” Face the fact that you need it... and then:

## **II. Get your motives right.**

*A. There is no such thing as good advice for doing bad things; for example:*

1. How can I avoid paying the taxes I owe?
2. Should I pay these debts or should I file bankruptcy?
3. How long should we live together before we get married?

*B. There are certain things you do not need advice for.*

1. When you already know that what you are doing is violating God’s Word, don’t go looking for someone to agree with you about what you are doing; those are easy to find.
2. Looking for someone to tell you what you want to hear is a common mistake; it is actually the most common method people use in finding a Church.

**2Timothy 4:3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;



3. If your Church preaches only what you already understand to be true and only what you like to hear, you maybe should be a little bit worried.

Get your motives right, and then:

### **III. Don't expect good advice to agree with what you already think.**

*A. Simple logic: If what you think and what you are doing is working; you wouldn't likely need to be seeking advice.*

1. I have often been asked advice only to find that person looking for corroboration instead of advice.

2. If you do what you've always done, you will get what you've always got.

3. Someone said that the definition of insanity is to keep doing the same things expecting different results.

*B. Do you ask advice of those whom you likely know as much as they?*

1. Often our pride causes us to avoid conversations with those who know a lot more than us about a particular subject.

2. We fear that what they advise could cause us to feel inferior.

3. Get over it!

4. I want financial advice from someone with money in the bank.

5. I want medical advice from someone who is in better shape than me.

6. I want tax advice from someone who is not under indictment by the IRS.

7. Look for advice that challenges you beyond what you have known before.

#### **IV. Build yourself a circle of good counselors.**

*A. Here are some areas in which you could use a qualified advisor.*

1. First you need a qualified spiritual advisor; a Pastor, an Elder, a Godly Deacon; simply a long time mature Christian who really knows the book and has lived it successfully; who is also not afraid to tell you what you need to hear.

2. You need a qualified medical advisor. A doctor who knows his or her business well and likewise, will tell you what you need to hear.

3. You need a good legal advisor when those kinds of situations arise that require them.

4. You need a qualified tax advisor; the more economically successful you become, the more qualified they need to be.

5. You need a good practical advisor; this could be the same person or persons as your spiritual advisor provided they know how to apply God's principles to real life.

6. You need a good economic advisor; someone who is successful financially.

7. You need a good advisor in your particular vocation or business; someone who is better at what you do than you are.

*B. Some of these advisors may not even be Christians, although it is great if they all are.*

### 1. **Luke 16:8-9**

8 And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

9 And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; ...

2. We need to build relationships with people who can make us better.

3. Many of them will be surface friendships but that is OK; it is actually even better because it makes it easier for them to be objective.

**In Conclusion:**

**Properly choosing your advisors is critical to a successful Christian life.**

**There is a great need, especially for our younger families for Godly and wise mentoring; good practical advice that is scriptural and effective.**

**To help meet this need we are beginning a new mentoring ministry that will start this Wednesday at 5:30 PM.**

**We will have a half hour session every week from 5:30 to 6:00 PM with questions and answers and practical advice.**

**I plan to bring in guests who are successful in their prospective fields as well as myself and other elder men of wisdom in our Church.**

**Coming to know Jesus is the greatest advice we have to give; but it is just the beginning of wonderful things to come.**