

Take My Advice

Advise / Advice

- Advise: to counsel, consult . . .
- Advice: *guidance, recommendations, help*

“Good advice is what your
own kids disregard
but give to their kids”

I. Assortment of Advice

Gn.41, Joseph to Pharaoh

- How many lives were saved
 - One young man
 - A few words of wisdom
 - Pharaoh was willing to listen
 - Advice can come from unexpected people, places, and times

Ex.18:13-25, Jethro to Moses

- Other people may see dangers and problems that we miss
 - Moses: exalted position, yet able to take advice from sheep-herder; prospered
 - Socrates

Nu.31:16, Balaam

- Rejected God's warning
 - Issued deadly advice to Moab

“How is it possible to expect that mankind will take advice, when they will not so much as take warning?”

– Jonathan Swift

Josh.9:...14, Israel

- Failed to ask God

“Advice is seldom welcome;
and those who want [need] it
the most always like it the least.”

– Lord Chesterfield

1 Sm.25:...32-34, Abigail

- Woman; drunk husband
- David, heir to throne
- Prevented lifetime of regret...or worse

2 Sm.16:20-23, Ahithophel

- Our “presidential advisor”
 - 17:1-7, 14...23
 - Hushai’s counsel saved David

1 Kings 12, Rehoboam

“Many receive advice; only the wise profit by it” – Publilius Syrus

1 Kings 12:25-28, Jeroboam

“Advice is judged by results,
not by intentions” – Cicero

Esther 5:...14, Haman's wife, friends

- **Haman had it all –**
 - Royal friend (Ahasuerus)
 - Power
 - Prestige
 - Family support
 - Built his own death pole

Job 2:9-10, best friend, worst advice

- **Job's wife blamed God**
 - No trust (in God)
 - No comfort (for Job)

1 Co.7:25, best friend, worst advice

- 26-28, 36-38, 39-40, Holy Spirit guaranteed advice
 - Not on level of commands
 - BUT: wisdom will take heed
 - Isa.9:6

I. Assortment of Advice

II. Advice About Advice

Uninspired advice must be weighed

- Wise heed advice based on biblical principles
- Hard-headed reject advice.
 - “Can’t tell him anything”
- Some advice is wicked. 2 Chr.22:3

No one knows everything

- Prov.19:20-21, what will stand?
- Acts 27:9-12, sailors

Everyone needs advice about something

Ps.73:24 – Illustrated...

- Prov.1:5
 - “Wise counsels” – lit. arts of seamanship, ...guiding himself and others aright through “waves of this troublesome world.”
 - Figure: steering a ship
 - Skill in management of life
 - 1 Co.12:28, *administrations*

“He that will not be counseled cannot be helped”

Everyone needs advice about something

Ps.73:24 – Illustrated...

- Prov.1:5
- Prov.11:14
 - Nation without *wise counsel* [guidance] = ship without a pilot.
 - Vulgate: *gubernatorial*
 - Rejecting good advice results in tragedy

Everyone needs advice about something

Ps.73:24 – Illustrated...

- Prov.1:5
- Prov.11:14
- Prov.12:15
 - Fool is 'right' because He justifies himself; the wise take advice.
 - Lk.10, lawyer...justifies himself in replying to Jesus

Everyone needs advice about something

Ps.73:24 – Illustrated...

- Prov.1:5
- Prov.11:14
- Prov.12:15
- Prov.24:6
 - War without counsel?

Some give great advice, but do not take it

- Solomon: Prov.4:1-7

“A good scare is worth more to a man than good advice” — E.W.Howe.

We harm ourselves when we neglect good advice

- Prov.1:25
- 1 Sm.28:7-20, Saul
- Mt.27:19, Pilate

“Advice is offensive—because it shows us that we are known to others as well as to ourselves.” —Sm. Johnson.

We harm ourselves when we accept bad advice

- Est.1:....13-15, Ahasuerus
- Isa.30:1

We must distinguish between good and bad advice

- Job's friends
- Ps.1:1 ... walks not in **counsel** of ungodly...
- Ps.2:2, rulers take **counsel** together against the LORD...

God's counsel is always good

- David, 2 Sm.11-12

'A good man giving bad advice
is more dangerous than a
nasty man giving bad advice.'

God's counsel is always good

- David, 2 Sm.11-12
- Inspired counsel is always infallible.
Ac.20:27
- Prov.3:5-6

God's counsel is always good

The Best Life

'He that gives good advice, builds with one hand; he that gives good counsel and example, builds with both; but he that gives good admonition and bad example, builds with one hand and pulls down w. the other' – Francis Bacon.

Always ask...

1. Is it biblical?
2. Is it accurate?
3. Is it necessary?
4. Is it aware of man's limitations?
5. Is it kind?