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Grounders:

It was great to be together last night! After the service, another heart was changed for eternity.

Proverbs 12:15 says, “The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.” In your conflict, seek advice. The result will be: **(1) guidance from the wise, (2) deceit from the wicked, (3) success from the Lord, and (4) sweet from a friend.**

Rehoboam was Solomon’s son. He watched his dad write 3,000 proverbs, rule over God’s people, and offer wise advice to many. He also saw his dad take on 700 wives and 300 concubines who led him astray (1 Kings 11:3). He gazed as his dad pursue knowledge for the sake of being smart, pleasure for the sake of satisfaction, money for the sake of security, military might for the sake of control, and assets for the sake of significance. On his first day as king, Rehoboam was presented with conflict; the people asked him to lighten their load (1 Kings 12:1-5).

Rehoboam sought *guidance from the wise* (1 Kings 12:6-7). The elders suggested that lightening the burden on the people would lead to their loyalty. Proverbs 24:6 tells us that seeking many wise counselors provides us guidance in our conflict.

Rehoboam also received *deceit from the wicked* (1 Kings 12:8-11). The opportunistic crew who had grown up with him suggested that Rehoboam increase his burden on the people. Do you think that they had any self-serving interests? That’s the clue that we are being deceived by those with wicked hearts who offer us advice. Rehoboam chose to follow his wicked friends’ advice, and he lost power.

Later in 1 Kings, we see 180,000 men saved from a bloody battle because the leaders listened to God (12:20-24). Proverbs 21:30 informs us that we receive *success from the Lord* for our conflict. Take every conflict to God in prayer and listen for His prompting. Verify whether it’s His will by determining its consistency with the Bible, wise counsel, and the life and teachings of Christ.

Finally, Proverbs 27:9 communicates that advice is *sweet from a friend* because our friends know us well and typically have our best interest at heart. A read of 1 Samuel 20 demonstrates how Jonathan offered sweet advice to his friend David whose life was spared. In conflict, seek advice from a true friend.

In Him,
Mitch