

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35
Union Valley, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

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Sermon – Discipline not Desire Determines Destination

One of my horses was cut badly...we knew where we needed to be with this horse in 8 weeks, and the vet's advice seemed crazy. I wanted to put as much skin back over the wound as I could so less would have to grow back. But the right way was the hard way ... cut a lot of it off so that new growth could start faster. Today's bible story is a lot like that and that is true in our lives as well.

God wanted the Nation of Israel to be ruled by Him, but they wanted a King, so God gave them Saul, then David, Solomon, and now there is going to be a new King. Our founding Fathers rejected having a King and went with God's model.

Rehoboam – Solomon's son who he wanted to be King.

Jeroboam – Head of all forced labor (people who the King forced to work for him for a while. He had worked his way up from the bottom to be the leader of this group.

1 Kings 12:1-19

1Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone there to make him king. **2**When Jeroboam, son of Nebat, heard this (he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), (the rumor began spreading that the people wanted Jeroboam to be the next King and in this day, that was a death sentence.) **he returned from Egypt.** **3**So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and the whole assembly of Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him, **4**“Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you.” **5**Rehoboam answered, “Go away for three days and then come back to me.” So the people went away. This was the only wise thing he did...give me some time to get some advice.

6Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. These guys had been there done that and knew how to navigate public life for a leader. They had nothing to gain or lose from a new King. “How would you advise me to answer these people?” he asked.

7 They replied, **“If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants.”** If you want to get from where you are to where you want to be, listen to the people and put their interest ahead of yours.

8 But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him.

This advice was exactly what he needed to hear, but NOT what he wanted to do. It was where he wanted to be, not how he wanted to get there.

Principle: When you do only what YOU want to do, you will not end up where you want to be.

9 He asked them, **“What is your advice? How should we answer these people who say to me, ‘Lighten the yoke your father put on us.’?”**

You can always find someone who will tell you what you want to hear.
When you hear only what you want to hear, you will do only what you want to do, and you WILL NOT end up where you want to be.

10 The young men who had grown up with him replied, **“these people have said to you, ‘Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter.’ Now tell them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s waist. 11** My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.

Skip to verse 16

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!”**

This was very offensive to the king – build your own cities and houses – Go rule yourself.

Twelve tribes made up Israel. Two went with Rehoboam who refused to listed and ten went with Jeroboam, who served the people

There is someone who knows how to get you from where you are to where you want to be, if you’re willing to listen.

Ask yourself...if I keep doing what I’m doing and listening to who I’m listening to, is it going to get me where I want to be?

-This is why it’s so important to read God’s word and Do what it says

-Write down one goal you want to get to ...

Proverbs 27:12 The prudent see danger and take refuge but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

Daily prayer: God help me to see trouble before it gets here and give me the wisdom and courage to do something about it.