
Words of Truth

Don't Listen To Momma If...

By: Brian A. Yeager

This is not an article wherein I am teaching that we should not take counsel from wise people. The word of God says: *"A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels... Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety... The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise... Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established"* (Proverbs 1:5, Proverbs 11:14, Proverbs 12:15, and Proverbs 15:22).

This is not an article wherein I am teaching that children should disobey parents. Nor am I teaching that a child should only listen to his or her father and not listen to the mother. The word of God says: *"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother... My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother... Harken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old... Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)... Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord"* (Proverbs 1:8, Proverbs 6:20, Proverbs 23:22, Ephesians 6:1-2, and Colossians 3:20).

The reason behind the title of this article will be clear as you read along. The point I am aiming to teach is that there may be a time when a parent is not right. Scripturally speaking, there are both wise counsels (Proverbs 24:6) and foolish counsels (Lamentations 2:14). The word of God teaches us to avoid listening to foolishness (Proverbs 9:6, Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 14:7, and I Timothy 1:3-7).

When it comes to parents, we've proven that those who use godly wisdom need to be hearkened unto. However, whether a parent or not, when someone advises us with worldly wisdom we have to understand that such wisdom is foolishness (I Corinthians 3:19). We have to always understand that we cannot hearken unto anything that will cause us to err from the faith (Acts 5:29). This is what brings us to the point we'll be discussing in this article. The point of this article is, sometimes moms (or dads) advise their children using wisdom that is not of God. When this happens, following that advice will not get us into a good situation with the Lord.

A Lesson From The Life Of Ahaziah

There are mothers (yes, fathers too) who want to reign in the lives of their children. Notice what happened to Ahaziah because he listened to his momma:

"And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his stead: for the band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had slain all the eldest. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned. Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in

*Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri. He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: **for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly.** Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab: for they were his counsellors after the death of his father to his destruction.*

He walked also after their counsel, and went with Jehoram the son of Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramoth-gilead: and the Syrians smote Joram. And he returned to be healed in Jezreel because of the wounds which were given him at Ramah, when he fought with Hazael king of Syria. And Azariah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Jehoram the son of Ahab at Jezreel, because he was sick. And the destruction of Ahaziah was of God by coming to Joram: for when he was come, he went out with Jehoram against Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab. And it came to pass, that, when Jehu was executing judgment upon the house of Ahab, and found the princes of Judah, and the sons of the brethren of Ahaziah, that ministered to Ahaziah, he slew them. And he sought Ahaziah: and they caught him, (for he was hid in Samaria,) and brought him to Jehu: and when they had slain him, they buried him: Because, said they, he is the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart. So the house of Ahaziah had no power to keep still the kingdom.

But when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah. But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons that were slain, and put him and his nurse in a bedchamber. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of king Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest, (for she was the sister of Ahaziah,) hid him from Athaliah, so that she slew him not. And he was with them hid in the house of God six years: and Athaliah reigned over the land" (II Chronicles 22:1-12).

Athaliah was a "control freak". Her motives became clear when her son died. She wanted to be in power. She counseled her son to do wickedly. The end result of his following that counsel was his destruction. That is a HUGE lesson.

Do you remember who counseled Jacob to deceive his father? It was his mother, Rebekah. Jacob was concerned about deceiving his father and being punished for it. Notice how Rebekah persuaded Jacob: *"My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing. And his mother said unto him, Upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them"* (Genesis 27:12-13). Jacob's mother convinced her son to lie to his father. Is lying ever right? We know it is wrong to lie (Proverbs 6:16-19, Proverbs 12:22, and Ephesians 4:25). Jacob obviously knew it was wrong too. Will he be okay since he was listening to his momma? The answer is NO! When we err, because we've listened to foolish counsel, we'll be accountable for that (Isaiah 3:12, Isaiah 9:16, and Matthew 15:14).

Conclusion

The Lord says: *"Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge"* (Proverbs 19:27). We need to learn to make sure that the counsel we receive is right with the Lord. It does not matter who the giver of that counsel is, we have to test it to be sure it is right in the sight of God (I Thessalonians 5:21). Momma's wisdom is not going to be what judges you in the end. It is the word of God that we'll be judged on (John 12:48). Therefore, don't listen to momma if she is not counseling you from God's word (cf. Psalms 119:24).