

Title: TWO KINDS OF FOLLY, SAME FOOLISHNESS, 1 KINGS 12.
(Chatham, NJ; 02/10/08, AM) [Pc – Two Point outline with cause to effect in each point]

Theme: When we look at Rehoboam and Jeroboam after the death of Solomon, they make critical errors because of foolish thinking.

Purpose: To expose the errors of their thinking and to examine how we fall prey to similar foolishness.

Introduction:

1. Relate the events in 1 Kings 12: Jeroboam had rebelled, gone into exile, and returned; Rehoboam refuses the counsel of the older men; all the tribes except Judah rebel.
2. Apparently all had not been golden in “golden age of Solomon.” The burden on the people had been oppressive and that is why they asked for a lighter load (smaller tax burden?); Samuel had warned them about this (1 Samuel 8:10-18).
3. Romans 15:4 says that “whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction,” so let’s see what we can take away from this episode.

I. Two Kinds of Folly, Same Foolishness.

A. Rehoboam.

1. What is the cause of his foolishness?
2. He listens to the wrong people.
3. He and his young advisors are arrogant.
4. He doesn’t have any compassion for those he is supposed to lead.
5. There is a common thing that happens in the halls of power: leaders can’t seem to get beyond what is good only for them.
6. Corzine’s proposal makes sense to many of the Trenton bureaucrats but not so much to the constituents who are most affected by it.
7. What is the effect?
8. The country splits.

B. Jeroboam.

1. What is the foolishness he engages in?
2. Jeroboam rejects God for political reasons, 12:25-28.
3. We are astonished that Israel would fall prey to this again.
4. It didn’t take much convincing, and perhaps we should wonder why they are so prone to believe in these things that were condemned by Moses and the prophets.
5. Diluting our faith with ideas from other religions is still tempting.
6. What is the effect?
7. Israel never outgrows his idolatry and goes into exile, 2 Kings 17:21-23.

II. Our Kinds of Folly, Same Foolishness.

A. We believe in lies.

1. On Wednesday night, we discovered in the Book of Ephesians that in speaking of the heavenly realms Paul paints a picture of reality: what God has done and is doing through Jesus Christ reflects what is happening in heaven.
2. Yet many people still look for alternative theories: one is the lie of space travel and the belief that beings from another galaxy want to communicate the mysteries of life to us. (See “The Impossible Journey,” *Salvo*, Spring ’07)

3. More subtle lies attack us at the level of our desires: Pornography won't hurt me; I can be a Christian without the church; the good life is having lots of things.
 4. Remember that Eve believed a lie and that was her downfall.
- B. We don't know the Word of God well enough to distinguish truth from error.
1. The more I talk to other ministers the more I realize how biblically illiterate society is.
 2. Note article that suggests secularism has been replaced by other faiths. I hesitate to offer the cause for this but the effect is obviously that people end up believing anything that will satisfy their religious craving.
 3. Not only do we need to read and study the Word of God, but we also need to help others know it as well.
 4. People seem prone to want to believe things about Christianity that are not true, but the church is called upon to be a witness to the truth about God, Eph. 3:10.
- C. Sometimes we simply can't adjust to change.
1. Note the book, *Who Moved My Cheese?*
 2. Ecclesiastes 7:10 seems to address those who can't adjust to change and may be the reason people can't change. They long for the good ol' days and can't adjust to what is happening around them.
 3. Businesses have to respond to changes or go out of business.
 4. I remember Fred Sitter telling me about the people of Flint and how they simply expected GM to be there for them forever. It was as if GM owed them a living.
 5. We may have to recognize that how churches have gone about ministry in some places and at other times doesn't always work in another place and time.
 6. In the church or in our personal lives we are not talking about changing our basic value system and message.
 7. But we must learn to adjust to certain changes.

Conclusion:

1. As always God's grace infuses life and life's changes.
2. The Kingdom would survive this horrific civil strife and foolishness, and even though Judah would also commit the same idolatries and go into exile, she retained the promises and hopes that God had made to her.
3. We would do well to avoid the follies of believing lies, not knowing the Word of God, and fearing to adjust to changes in our lives.
4. God is in control, and we still hope for the day of redemption.
5. Even faced with human foolishness, God brings about redemption.
6. Let us put our hope in that certainty.