

Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 15:22

Store In My Heart

Proverbs 15:23

To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!

This verse advises regarding our interaction with others. We need to be thoughtful of what we are saying to those we meet each day. It is rare that we know what another individual has been dealing with when we cross paths. How and what we speak to them can make a bad day worse or a good day bad. Even when we must give answer to a specific question we can do so with thought to what is most appropriate for encouragement. Giving extra thought to our answer might just make bad news bearable.

If we are thoughtful and always try to speak kind words and with an encouraging attitude it is more likely that we can add a moment of joy. It is not always possible, but we should try to lift the spirits of those we meet.

Listening To Advisers

Dan Henderson

"Listen to your elders."

"Get advise from someone who has experience."

"I have been there and can tell you how it is."

The above statements are often offered to those who are seeking advise about something they are dealing with in their life. I want to begin by stating that these statements are good general ideas for such a situation. Those who have gone before in a situation can help us, but I want to consider a somewhat different idea in this article. We need to make sure we are not ignoring good advice just because it is from a seemingly unqualified source. Wise advise can sometimes come from strange places.

Consider for a moment Paul's voyage as a prisoner to Rome in Acts 27. They found a ship going the right way, but had a great deal of difficulty getting anywhere. Acts 27:7-8 Verses 9-10 tells us that it was a dangerous time of year to be on the Mediterranean Sea and Paul advised the centurion that to travel further at this time would lead to much loss and injury. Verse 11 tells us the centurion gave more attention to those with the ship than to Paul. Thus they left the safety of the port and attempted to reach a better place in which to winter. Continued reading reveals that it was not long until the centurion probably began to wish he had listened to Paul. Their voyage with that ship concluded with shipwreck and being stranded on a small island.



Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

John Ragsdale is still in the hospital with Cellulitis.

Ruben Keisler is in physical therapy.

Paula Laubach still has a very painful knee.

John Jackson had a shot in his knee last week.

Joyce Venable had a small stroke last week.

Remember in prayer those dealing with damage and loss from hurricane Laura. Many are our brethren.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

I suspect that most of us in the place of the centurion would probably followed the same path as he. Most would consider the advise of a ship's pilot more valuable regarding sailing than some religious prisoner. But one thing it seems the centurion did not consider when he was making his decision, motive behind the advise. Those associated with the ship wanted a better port in which to winter. It seems they were looking for a more comfortable place to stay during the rough weather of this season. Of course I am sure this was on the mind of the centurion as well. If he was going to have to wait out the seasonal storms why not do so in a port well suited for such waiting, both for men and ship.

Paul on the other hand was motivated by concern for the men involved. Paul's plea was to avoid injury and harm. Paul, whose life was devoted to helping men avoid the destruction of sin, demonstrates his concern for the well being of all those involved. Of course looking from the outside, so to speak, we can also see that Paul's advise is based on knowledge from God. Still it is worth note that Paul wanted all these men to avoid the loss and injury that was sure to come.

Are we really that much different than this centurion? It is easy for us to follow advise that points us in a direction we desire to travel. It would do us good to not only know the experience of our advisers, but to also consider the motivation behind their advise if we can. We need to listen to those who have experience, but we also need to consider sound council from others. Think carefully about all your decisions. Remember the easy path is often filled with sorrow and loss. As for the centurion, I know he listened more closely the next time Paul spoke.

(I wrote this article several years ago, but I think the message is valid even with some of the situations we are dealing with today. Even those who are expert in their field may have some lacking or bias that could have an impact on what they recommend for a particular situation. Sometimes the person with good knowledge of many different areas can better steer our course than the one who is an expert in that topic. He may be able to see something the expert has missed. Pray, Study, Apply, Repeat! DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!