

Giving and Receiving Advice

"The Life of Paul" episode 38

Acts 21:1-14

Good advice is often annoying, bad advice never.

"Luke and the others could bear it no longer. 'We and those who were there begged him not to go up to Jerusalem.' They wept and pleaded.... Paul felt (to judge by the word he uses) squeezed and pummeled like the washing under the wrists of an oriental washerwoman. He knew that their urgings sprang from deep affection, from desire to protect him. Yet he had been sure since the road to Assos, at latest, that the higher love of the Lord Jesus called him to Jerusalem.... 'What are you doing,' cried Paul, 'weeping and pummeling my heart? I am ready not only to be bound but to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.'" John Pollock, *The Apostle: A Life of Paul*

When You Receive Advice

1. Develop decision-making c_____.

Acts 9:16 19:21 20:16, 22-24

2. Seek good counsel, but also evaluate what you hear.

Proverbs 11:14 12:15 13:10 15:22 19:20 20:18 27:9

3. Don't be surprised if the _____ friends give the _____ advice.

1 Samuel 24:4-7 1 Kings 12:1-16 1 Chronicles 17:1-4 Job 2:9 42:7-9

4. Don't abandon the c_____ decisions of the morning in the h_____ of the afternoon.

Acts 21:12-14 23:11

5. Act out of devotion to a cause greater than yourself.

Matthew 16:21-24 Luke 4:1-13 9:51 22:33, 42

When You Give Advice

- Am I encouraging maturity-- or dependence on me?

- Am I fully informed--or assuming things without asking?

- Am I distinguishing my own desires from God's will--or confusing them?

- Am I staying calm--or tightening the emotional screws?

- Am I urging the life of _____ -- or the path of least resistance?