

Listen Only To A Person Who Has First Listened To God

In any group of ten people at least nine are sure to believe that they are qualified to give advice to others.

In **no** other field of human interest are people as ready to offer advice as in the field of religion and morals.

Yet it is in this field precisely that the average person is least qualified to speak wisely and is capable of the most harm when they do speak.

For this reason we should select our counsellors carefully.

In this selection we should include the idea of rejection for valid reasons.

Psalms 1:1-2 [NIV] *“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.”*

King David warns against the counsel of ungodly men, and points to where we can check on their qualifications, God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

1 Kings 12:6-10 [NIV] *“Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. ‘How would you advise me to answer these people?’ he asked. They replied, ‘If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favourable answer, they will always be your servants.’ But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him. 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”?’ The young men who had grown up with him replied, ‘Tell these people who have said to you, “Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter,” tell them, “My little finger is thicker than my father’s waist.”’”*

Rehoboam listened to young men who had **not** listened to God, and the whole picture of Israel was affected adversely as a consequence. [**verses 12-19**]

No person has any right to offer advice who has **not** heard God speak to them through His Word, the Christian Bible.

No person has any right to counsel others who is **not** ready to hear and follow the counsel of the Creator God themselves.

True moral wisdom must always be an echo of the Creator God’s voice.

The only safe light for our path in life, is the light which is reflected from Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. [**John 8:12; John 1:1-5, 14**]

Whether we realise it or not every day we accept opinions of others and adopt them as our own.

We may boast of our independence of others’ counsel as if such independence is a virtue.

Proverbs 14:12 [NIV] *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”*

This is true because of the deceitfulness of the human heart or mind. [Jeremiah 17:9]

Just in case we did not get this fact the first time, God repeats it in **Proverbs 16:25**.

Proverbs 12:5 [NIV] *“The plans of the righteous are just, but the advice of the wicked is deceitful.”*

God even calls a person who does **not** take counsel a fool, [**Proverbs 12:15**].

This rule of listening only to those who are well-versed in God’s Word, the Christian Bible, and who bases the advice directly on God’s Word, will save us from many problems.

All religious projects should be tested by this rule.

No appeal to our sympathies, no sad stories, no shocking pictures should move us to place our money and our time into schemes promoted by people who are too busy to listen to the Creator God.

When we have fully proved that the person we are listening to is an instrument in God’s hands to help us make wise decisions, how we listen to them is also important.

To assume that we have been instructed by God’s Word, the Christian Bible, because we have heard it quoted or referred to, is **not** always true.

Much of what we are hearing as instructions may be lost because we are **not** worthy to hear the truth. That is, we have **not** met the moral terms required to hear the Truth rightly.

Isaiah 55:11 [NIV] *“so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”*

This does **not** give support to the notion that God’s Truth is effective wherever or whenever it is spoken.

Proverbs 1:24-25 [NIV] *“But since you rejected me when I called and no-one gave heed when I stretched out my hand, since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke,”*

The lament of the Old Testament prophets was that they cried aloud to Israel and their words were **not** regarded.

Acts 28:24-28 [NIV] *“Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: ‘The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah the prophet: Go to this people and say, ‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.’ For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them. Therefore I want you to know that God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!’”*

Paul turned from the Jews to the gentiles giving the Jews a quotation from their own scriptures. [**Isaiah 6:9-10**]

Before there can be true inward understanding of divine Truth, there must be a moral preparation in the mind and heart of the person seeking to receive it.

Matthew 11:25-26 [NIV] *“At that time Jesus said, ‘I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.’”*

Jesus Christ understood this need for a “childlike” attitude of mind to receive God’s Truth.

The gospel according to John is filled with the teaching that there must be spiritual readiness within the mind and heart before there can be real understanding of God’s Truth.

John 7:17 [NIV] *“If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”*

This sums up what we find in John’s writing.

1 Corinthians 2:13-14 [NIV] *“This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

Only when we have submitted our lives to the direction of the Holy Spirit will we be able to understand God’s Word, the Christian Bible, because it is Holy Spirit inspired. [**2 Timothy 3:16; John 16:13**]

Along with our question *“Is this person worthy to speak to me?”* we should ask *“Am I worthy to hear this person?”*!

An attitude of humility on the part of hearers will secure for them a great deal more *“light”* into God’s Word, whatever the size of the *“candle”* God may be using to reveal His Truth to us.

When a person becomes worthy to hear, God will sometimes use what may seem to them a very unworthy media.

Peter, for example, was brought to repentance by the crowing of a rooster, of course the rooster was innocent of the part he was playing.

God will speak to the minds, hearts and human spirits of those who prepare themselves to hear, and conversely those **not** prepared will hear **nothing** even though the Word of God is falling upon their ears, and their eyes can see the printed word in the Christian Bible.