

Listening To Advisers

Written by 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.

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.

Listening To Advisers

Written by Dan Henderson

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.