



**What Opportunities Will You Miss?  
(Don't be Like Rehoboam)**

**Date:** September 5, 2021 (4th Drive-In)

**Text:** 1 Kings 12:1–24 (NIV)

**Drive In Sermons So Far**

**1. June: What are you afraid of?**

- The Danger of Naive Optimism, Matthew 4:1-11

**2. July: What will you give up?**

- Matthew 4:17, Matthew 16:24

**3. August: How Do You Plan During Difficult Seasons? (Check your Facts, Abilities, and Plans)**

- Matthew 16:24-25

**4. September: What Opportunities Will You Miss?**

- I Kings 12:1-24

**Big Question: Will you miss a great opportunity because you hesitate and choose to be difficult?**

**I. Rehoboam Had the Opportunity to Succeed**

**He was offered a once in a life-time opportunity to succeed Solomon**

- **Rehoboam** went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone there to make him king. 2 When **Jeroboam** son of Nebat heard this (he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), he returned from Egypt. 3 So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and the whole assembly of Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him: 4 “Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you.”

**II. Rehoboam Made the Decision to Hesitate**

- 5 Rehoboam answered, “**Go away for three days and then come back to me.**” So the people went away. 6 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. 7 They replied, “If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants.”

**III. Rehoboam Made the Decision to Be Difficult**

**1. He rejected the advice of proven experience and chose inexperienced voices**

- 8 But **Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders** gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him. 9 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’?”

**2. He allowed his life-long friends to have too much influence**

- 10 **The young men who had grown up with him replied, “These people have said to you, ‘Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter. ‘Now tell them, ‘My little finger is**

**thicker than my father’s waist.** 11 My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.”

**3. He answered the people harshly**

- 12 Three days later Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam, as the king had said, “Come back to me in three days.” 13 **The king answered the people harshly. Rejecting the advice given him by the elders,** 14 he followed the advice of the young men and said, “My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.”
- 15 **So the king did not listen to the people,** for this turn of events was from the Lord, to fulfill the word the Lord had spoken to Jeroboam son of Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite.

**4. He convinced his followers there was nothing it for them (Have you ever done this?)**

- 16 When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king: “What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse’s son? To your tents, Israel! Look after your own house, David!” So the Israelites went home. 17 But as for the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah, Rehoboam still ruled over them.

**5. He made the people turned against him**

- 18 King Rehoboam sent out Adoniram, who was in charge of forced labor, but all Israel stoned him to death. King Rehoboam, however, managed to get into his chariot and escape to Jerusalem. **19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.**

**6. He made the people desire another leader who would listen to God’s guidance**

- 20 **When all the Israelites heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him** to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. Only the tribe of Judah remained loyal to the house of David.

**7. he had a hard time accepting that he lost his power and position (Sometimes God moves on)**

- 21 When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, **he mustered all Judah and the tribe of Benjamin**—a hundred and eighty thousand able young men—to go to war against Israel and to regain the kingdom for Rehoboam son of Solomon.
- 22 **But this word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God:** 23 “Say to Rehoboam son of Solomon king of Judah, to all Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, 24 ‘ This is what the Lord says: **Do not go up to fight against your brothers, the Israelites. Go home,** every one of you, for this is my doing.” **So they obeyed the word of the Lord** and went home again, as the Lord had ordered.

**Conclusion: How many opportunities will you miss if you do not change?**