



Pay Attention to the Right People

1 Kings 11-12

The Bottom Line: Pay attention to the voices of wisdom around you.

Introduction:

You may be familiar with The Genetic Fallacy.

A fallacy is an error in reasoning. It takes place when someone discounts the reliability of information based on the source rather than the merits of the information.

It's easy to discount information based on the source rather than its merit. Advice, in particular, should be judged by its merits, not on its source. If not, you may become your own worst enemy.

Review:

I'm sure you've all met someone who made a huge mess of their life. They undermined their own success, marriage, career, or even health.

And, you thought, "I would never let that happen to me," but the truth is you certainly have the potential to because after all ...

You have **participated** in **all** your bad decisions.

A single bad decision is always the first step toward **becoming your own worst enemy**.

Every habit begins with a first time.

Every pattern starts with a first line.

Every journey begins with a first step.

In this series, I'm giving you three preemptive habits to overcome your own worst enemy. Over the past two weeks, we've covered the following habits:

Preemptive Habit #1: Pay **attention** to the **tension**.

Preemptive Habit #2: Pay **attention** to your **narratives**.

Today, we're talking about habit three: Pay **attention** to the voices of **wisdom** around you.

Tension:

Most people who become their own worst enemy were warned, and they wouldn't listen.

Our worst decisions are always preceded by a series of unwise decisions.

Somebody felt the tension we ignored. They weren't distracted by our internal narratives. They connected dots that we didn't and said something.

Truth:

Read 1 Kings 11-12.

1 Kings 12:8, "But Rehoboam **rejected** the advice the elders gave him ..."

It was what he needed to hear. It was not what he wanted to do.

It was the only way to get to where he wanted to be.

Rehoboam found folks who would tell him what he wanted to hear. This is how you become your own worst enemy. If you surround yourself with people who tell you what you want to hear, you'll lose influence, opportunity, resources, and respect.

This is how you end up where you don't want to be.

Whose advice are you currently ignoring?

Find someone who has nothing to gain or lose by telling you the truth. Don't get trapped by the genetic fallacy, and ask ...

"What would **you do** if you were in my **shoes**?"

The problem is we don't think it's anyone's business, and it may not be their business. You are inviting them into your business. Private decisions have public consequences. Your private decisions don't stay private. Wise people make their decisions someone else's business because success is intoxicating.

Conclusion:

Every person, who has become their own worst enemy, when they made that regrettable decision – that moment they wish they could go back and undo, was most often preceded by a series of unwise decisions.

When we open ourselves to the voices of wisdom, we make better decisions and live with fewer regrets, and ultimately, we avoid becoming our own worst enemy.

Wrapping up, these are the three preemptive habits that will ensure you don't become your own worst enemy:

1. Pay attention to the tension.
2. Pay attention to your narratives.
3. Pay attention to voices of wisdom around you.

This is not just for your sake. It's for the sake of the people around you. Following Jesus requires that we love as he loved. We lose opportunities to do that when we become our own worst enemy. So, pay attention to the tension, pay attention to your narratives, and pay attention to the voices of wisdom around you.

Application:

Somebody can see what you can't see. I want to challenge you to make this commitment.

Commitment #3:

I will not automatically discount advice based on the source of the advice.

Pay attention to the voices of wisdom around you. Wise voices set you up for wise choices.

Next Steps:

- Memorize 1 Kings 12:6.
- Pay attention to voices of wisdom around you.

Discussion questions for group this week:

1. What does this teach me about God?

2. What does this teach me about me?

3. How do I apply this to my life?

4. If I could ask a question about this it would be....