

Longing for grace

1 Kings 12:1-24

- I. Leadership is an opportunity to have an impact through showing grace (1 Kings 12:1-7).
 - A. The people desired unity for the nation and grace from Rehoboam the new king (1-4).
 - B. The elders advised Solomon to show grace because grace motivates loyalty (5-7).

- II. Harsh, graceless leadership is motivated by the desire for control (1 Kings 12:8-15).
 - A. Rehoboam's peers advised him to be harsher to gain more self-centered power (8-11).
 - B. Rehoboam listened to bad advice and chose harshness over grace (12-15).

- III. Harsh, graceless leadership creates resentment and rebellion (1 Kings 12:16-24)
 - A. The northern tribes rebelled when Rehoboam rejected the plea for grace (16-17).
 - B. Rehoboam's foreman was stoned by the people and Rehoboam escaped with his life (18-19).
 - C. Rehoboam launched a civil war, but responded to God's warning (20-24).

Becoming a gracious person

1. Peter – We must focus continually on God's grace for us (1 Peter 1:10, 13; 4:10; 5:10, 12; 2 Peter 3:18).

2. Paul – Knowing God's grace, we can reflect His grace in our relationships (Colossians 3:12-14, 19, 21).