

A Wicked Counsellor

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

2 Chronicles 22:2-4, "Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri. He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab :for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly. Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab :for they were his counsellors after the death of his father to his destruction."

Ahaziah was king at the age of forty two. He was no child and in forty two years he should have learned a few things. I would think that most of us were much younger than that when we had an idea of the difference between right and wrong. Some might say, "Well, he had a bad example, or examples, in his life." Maybe, but that doesn't mean that he had to follow that path in his life.

I have known of folks who grew up in a home where wickedness was a daily routine, but when they grew up and left home they lived a better life. Some grow up in a good home with parents who set a good

example for them. Then that person may go out into the world and choose to live a sinful life. Likewise a person may grow up in a home with evil put before them all of their life, but go out on their own and live for the Lord. The point is that we choose our own path through life.

When we see that people around us try to lead us to wickedness we decide whether to follow that, or not. It may be co-workers, friends, or even family, but we choose to go along with them, or to walk our own path. I believe that each person feels within himself what is right, or wrong. He may not come out and admit it, but we know when we do something that is wrong. This is true even if it is just a thought that is not right. That is why people don't say what they really think at times, and why they hide some of the things that they do.

So if we know right from wrong why do we listen to those who would steer us onto a path that is sinful. To listen to them must be because they say something that appeals to us. Maybe it is the thought of doing something that we wanted to do in the first place. Evil always tries to make us think that it is going to do something for our good. Remember Adam and Eve in the garden? Satan make it look like God had kept things from them,

but he was going to show them how to really live and to know just what they were missing.

It has been said that an education costs you and they found that out first hand. They discovered that disobeying God was going to cost them more than they wanted to pay. No more would they have the fellowship with God in the garden and the life that they had before listening to the deceiver. For listening to Satan they would know death, and a hard life just trying to grow food. Those who give evil counsel never say that they are going to trick you and try to destroy your life. Like the great liar, they sound like they are going to help you. All you have to do is to take a few shortcuts and leave the path of righteousness. "It'll be easier and better", or so they say.

If anyone had asked Adam and Eve after they were driven from the garden, if they would do the same thing again, I'm sure they would have said, "There is no way that they would do it again." They didn't like the results of taking advice from the evil one. It is the same throughout history. Whenever a person listens to an evil advisor trouble is the end result. Be careful who, and what, we listen too. Always remember that because something sounds good doesn't mean that it will be good.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of II Kings intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

The Shunammite's Son
IN HIS TRAVELS THROUGH THE LAND, AS THE LORD'S PROPHET, ELISHA OFTEN PASSES THROUGH SHUNEM, WHERE A WOMAN OF GREAT WEALTH TELLS HER SERVANTS TO FEED HIM, NOW ...

...ELISHA TRAVELS THROUGH THE LAND, CONSTANTLY, TO HELP ALL THE PEOPLE ...



...AND WHEN HE PASSES THROUGH SHUNEM, HE PAUSES AT THE HOME OF THIS KIND LADY ...



...THERE IS ALWAYS FOOD SET OUT FOR HIM AT THE HOME OF THIS KIND WOMAN ...



AFTER MANY SUCH OCCASIONS, THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN FINALLY REALIZES WHO, AND WHAT, ELISHA IS ...



BEHOLD NOW, HUSBAND, I PERCEIVE THAT THIS IS AN HOLY MAN OF GOD WHICH PASSETH BY US CONSTANTLY... LET US MAKE A LITTLE ROOM, I PRAY THEE, ON THE WALL, WITH A BED, AND A TABLE, AND A STOOL, AND CANDLE-STICK, WHERE HE MAY REST FROM HIS JOURNEY WHEN HE COMETH TO US!

... SHE SPEAKS TO HER HUSBAND WHO, BEING AN OLDER MAN, CAN WITHOLD NOTHING FROM HIS YOUNG WIFE WHICH MIGHT PLEASE HER, SO ...

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