Singapore Bible College Tiffany Tan

22-April-2021 Message 1 of 2

ESV 15 Minutes

**Don’t Follow Your Heart**

***1 Kings 12:25-33***

*“25Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel. 26And Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David. 27If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.” 28So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” 29And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one.[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Kings%2012%3A25-33&version=ESV#fen-ESV-9182a)*] 31He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites. 32And Jeroboam appointed a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made. 33He went up to the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had devised from his own heart. And he instituted a feast for the people of Israel and went up to the altar to make offerings.”*

**Topic:** Obey

**Subject:** How can you do things right?

**Complement:** Watch your heart and obey God’s commands.

**Purpose:** The listeners will know how to do things right.

# Introduction

### Interest: One of the main phrases I’ve heard growing up was to “follow your heart.” How many times when you followed your heart, it led you down the wrong path?

### Need: Have you always found it intimidating to lead a ministry or to make decisions in life, in fear that you would be doing it wrong?

### Subject: Today we will learn ***how to do things right*** instead of following your heart. How can you do things right?

### Background: Jeroboam was the first king of Israel, who fought back against Rehoboam, son of Solomon, when he raised the slave taxes. This caused the Kingdom to split into Israel (Northern Kingdom) and Judah (Southern Kingdom). Solomon’s temple was in Judah and the people would have to travel to Judah to offer their sacrifices. We will see

### Preview: Today I will share with you two ways for you to always do things right.

### Text: 1 Kings 12:25-33

(The first thing we must do to always do things right is to…)

# I. Watch where your heart is wandering (12:25-27).

[We must first know how our desires may be going astray.]

## Jeroboam’s root problem was jealousy (12:25-27).

### Jeroboam feared losing his kingdom to Rehoboam (12:25-26).

### Jeroboam did not want his people to go to Judah to worship in fear that they would switch alliances (12:27a).

### Jeroboam feared that when alliances switched, he would be killed (12:27b).

## Sometimes we disguise our evil intentions with godly works.

### What does your heart truly desire? It is easy for us to say that Jeroboam was wrong because his actions were bad. But it can be much more dangerous for us. Sometimes we disguise our evil intentions with godly works.

### ILL: The Singapore City Harvest Church trial reveals that church funds were diverted into supporting a pop music “ministry” when in reality this just masked godless intentions.

### APP: But do we disguise our own successes as church work? Maybe as leaders, we may enter the season of needing to raise funds for church work and we preach a sermon about giving. While it is good that the application is to give, is our hearts desire to instill a heart of giving in our congregation in response to God’s faithfulness or do we preach with the intention that the congregation give more to the church solely?

(After we know what our heart desires, what should we *actually do* to do things right?)

# II. Obey God’s commands (12:28-33).

[To do what is right, follow what God already says!]

## Jeroboam disregarded God’s commands in *four ways* (12:28-33).

### Jeroboam made golden calves for the people to worship (12:28-30).

#### They supposedly worshipped the God of Israel at Dan and Bethel—but were in fact, idols of Jeroboam’s own making.

#### Exodus 32 showed how the Israelites used a golden calf to represent God while they were in the wilderness.

#### The calf represented pagan gods: Apis, an Egyptian bull god, or Baal, the Canaanite fertility god.

#### They were not to make an image of anything in heaven or on earth and worship (Exodus 20:4-5).

### Jeroboam made temples on the high places (12:31a).

#### This provided another place of worship although they were supposed to gather at Solomon’s temple to worship.

#### High places were not allowed as places of worship as they were associated with pagan worship. Once Solomon’s temple was erected, they were not allowed to worship at high places as it took away from the central temple in Jerusalem and represented unfaithfulness to God and suggested a split allegiance to God and the pagan gods (Deut 12:2-3).

### Jeroboam appointed non-Levite priests (12:31b).

#### He appointed non-Levites as priests, which was a complete disrespect of how God appointed the Levites as priests in the first place.

#### Why? He disallowed the legitimate priests because they opposed the worship of the golden calf in Exodus 32.

### Jeroboam delayed the Feast of the Tabernacle by a month (12:32-33).

#### Feast of Tabernacles/ Sukkot was the 15th day of the seventh month. But he changed the date of the Feast that was supposed to be on the 15th day of the seventh month to the eighth month instead.

#### Some suggest that he moved it was because he was influenced by foreign calendars that deemed the eighth month as the month of produce.

## To ***obey*** God’s commands, we must ***know*** God’s commands.

### ILL of over-glorified preachers: While we may not have golden calves around our churches, perhaps we have introduced idols into our community with the intention of directing people to God. Have we overused a particular author so much or relied solely on certain famous theologians? These people can unknowingly become idols in our church that we use to sieve through God’s word instead of the other way around.

### ILL of School rules: From the time that you’ve been in SBC, do you know how many school rules you have broken? If you’re feeling a little uneasy right now, it is probably because you didn’t study and memorize this book (Student handbook). So my point is that you cannot obey commands that you don’t know! Just because you don’t know the commands doesn’t mean that you are not liable for their consequences. The way we obey God’s commands is not just by knowing them, and memorizing them but by living our lives according to them.

## (The way we do things right is to...)

# Conclusion

### Watch your heart and obey God’s commands (MI).

### Application:

#### Have you been disregarding God’s commands? Do you have idols in your life where you value something else more than God? Have you led people into sin, planting evil thoughts or leading them into unwholesome practices? Have you tried to find loopholes in God’s commands to satisfy your own desire?

#### Do you know God’s commands? Maybe it’s time to read the Bible again.

#### Look at your ministries—what are your true motivations for your decisions? Is it to glorify God or to boost your status in the eyes of men?

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### Solomon builds a temple for God, but soon falls to idolatry when he marries multiple women for political gain.

### The division of Israel into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and Southern Kingdom (Judah).

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### This passage showed how Jeroboam led his kingdom into sin through disobedience and disregard towards God’s commands.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### The Messianic King was to come from the line of David to establish God’s Kingdom over the nations and fulfill the covenant to Abraham in Genesis 12. None of the Kings are able to live up to this.

### David tells Solomon to stay faithful to God alone in his dying days.

### Deuteronomy 17:14-20 gives us the conditions for a King of Israel.

# Sources Used

* + 1. Wiseman, Donald J. Volume 9: *1 and 2 Kings.* Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1993.
    2. House, Paul R. Volume 8: *1, 2 Kings.* The New American Commentary. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995.
    3. Barnes, William H. Volume 4b: *1-2 Kings.* Cornerstone Biblical Commentary. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2012.

# Questions & Answers (cf. p. 22 #1)

### Who was Jeroboam?

#### First king of the Northern Kingdom (Israel)

* + 1. Who was Rehoboam?

#### Son of Solomon, first king of the Southern Kingdom (Judah); a bad king.

* + 1. What was the tension between Jeroboam and Rehoboam?

#### Rehoboam took over after Solomon but he increased the tax for slave labour, so Jeroboam fought back and the kingdom divided.

* + 1. What did the two golden calves represent?

#### They represented the God of Israel to worship at Dan and Bethel.

#### Exodus 32 showed how the Israelites used a golden calf to represent God while they were in the wilderness.

#### The calf represented pagan gods: Apis, an Egyptian bull god, or Baal, the Canaanite fertility god.

* + 1. Why was what Jeroboam did so terrible?

#### They were not to make an image of anything in heaven or on earth and worship it. (Exodus 20:4-5)

#### Provided another place of worship although they were supposed to gather at Solomon’s temple to worship.

#### High places were not allowed to be places of worship as they were associated with pagan worship. Once Solomon’s temple was erected, they were not allowed to worship at high places as it took away from the central temple in Jerusalem and represented unfaithfulness to God and suggested a split allegiance to God and the pagan gods. (Deut 12:2-3)

#### He appointed non-Levites as priests, which was a complete disrespect of how God appointed the Levites as priests in the first place, because they were against the worship of the golden calf in Exodus 32.

* + 1. What was the feast that Jeroboam offered sacrifices?

#### Feast of Tabernacles/ Sukkot

#### He changed the date of the Feast that was supposed to be on the 15th day of the seventh month to the eighth month instead. Some suggests that the reason why he moved it was because he was influenced by foreign calendars where he deemed that the eighth month was the month of produce.

* + 1. Why was Jerusalem so important?

#### It was where Solomon built the temple that God instructed him to.

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

*1 Kings 12:25-33*

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# Option 1

# Subject: The way to do things right

# Complement: is by watching where your heart wanders and by obeying God’s commands.

# Option 2

# Subject: The manner in which Jeroboam’s jealousy led his people into idolatry

# Complement: was by disregarding God’s commands.

# Option 3

# Subject: The reason why Jeroboam sinned

# Complement: was because he did not deal with his jealousy and disregarded God’s commands.Possible Illustrations

*1 Kings 12:25-33*

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# Older sibling watching over younger sibling. What are their motivations for babysitting their sibling? Is it the money or for ranking up the good points for a request in the future? Or is it purely because they love their sibling?

# School rules. Do you know how many school rules you have broken? You will never know unless you actually read the student handbook and memorized it inside out.

# Church funds. We all know of the City Harvest Church trial. Do we disguise our own successes as church work? Maybe as leaders, we may enter the season of needing to raise funds for church work and we preach a sermon about giving. While it is good that the application is to give, is our hearts desire to instill a heart of giving in our congregation in response to God’s faithfulness or do we preach with the intention that the congregation give more to the church solely?

# Over-glorified preachers. While we may not have golden calves around our churches, perhaps we have introduced idols into our community with the intention of directing people to God. Have we overused a particular author so much or relied solely on certain famous theologians? These people can unknowingly become idols in our church which we use to sieve through God’s word instead of the other way around.

# Possible Applications

*1 Kings 12:25-33*

*“25Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel. 26And Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David. 27If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.” 28So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” 29And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one.[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Kings%2012%3A25-33&version=ESV#fen-ESV-9182a)*] 31He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites. 32And Jeroboam appointed a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made. 33He went up to the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had devised from his own heart. And he instituted a feast for the people of Israel and went up to the altar to make offerings.”*

## Have you been disregarding God’s commands?

## Know God’s commands, read the Bible.

## Look at your ministries, what are your true motivations for your decisions?

# Older Outlines of This Sermon Text or Outlines by Others (Books, Commentaries, etc.)

Text

**Don’t Follow Your Heart**

***1 Kings 12:25-33***

*“25Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel. 26And Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David. 27If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.” 28So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” 29And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one.[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Kings%2012%3A25-33&version=ESV#fen-ESV-9182a)*] 31He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites. 32And Jeroboam appointed a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made. 33He went up to the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had devised from his own heart. And he instituted a feast for the people of Israel and went up to the altar to make offerings.”*

Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)

# Exegetical Idea (CPT): The manner in which Jeroboam’s jealousy led his people into idolatry was by disregarding God’s commands (12:25-33).

# I. The reason for Jeroboam’s sin was his jealousy of the Southern Kingdom (12:25-27).

## Jeroboam was afraid to lose his Kingdom to Rehoboam (12:25-26).

## Jeroboam did not want his people to go to Judah to worship (12:27a).

## Jeroboam was afraid that he will be killed (12:27b).

# II. The manner in which Jeroboam’s jealousy led his people into idolatry was by disregarding God’s commands (12:28-33).

## Jeroboam made golden calves for the people to worship (12:28-30).

## Jeroboam made temples on high places (12:31a).

## Jeroboam appointed non-Levite priests (12:31b).

## Jeroboam delayed the Feast of the Tabernacle by a month (12:32-33).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will rethink their motivations in life and align their hearts to obey God’s commands.

Sermon Outline (Cyclical inductive form)—Steps 5-6

# Introduction

### Interest: One of the main phrases I’ve heard growing up was to “follow your heart.” How many times when you followed your heart, it led you down the wrong path?

### Need: Have you always found it intimidating to lead a ministry or to make decisions in life, in fear that you would be doing it wrong?

### Subject: Today we will learn ***how to do things right*** instead of following your heart. How can you do things right?

### Background: Jeroboam was the first king of Israel, who fought back against Rehoboam, son of Solomon, when he raised the slave taxes. This caused the Kingdom to split into Israel (Northern Kingdom) and Judah (Southern Kingdom). Solomon’s temple was in Judah and the people would have to travel to Judah to offer their sacrifices. We will see

### Preview: Today I will share with you two ways for you to always do things right.

### Text: 1 Kings 12:25-33

(The first thing we must do to always do things right is to…)

# I. Watch where your heart is wandering (12:25-27).

## Jeroboam’s root problem was jealousy (12:25-27).

## Sometimes we disguise our evil intentions with godly works.

(After we know what our heart desires, what should we *actually do* to do things right?)

# II. Obey God’s commands (12:28-33).

## Jeroboam disregarded God’s commands in *four ways* (12:28-33).

### Jeroboam made golden calves for the people to worship (12:28-30).

### Jeroboam made temples on the high places (12:31a).

### Jeroboam appointed non-Levite priests (12:31b).

### Jeroboam delayed the Feast of the Tabernacle by a month (12:32-33).

## To ***obey*** God’s commands, we must ***know*** God’s commands.

## (The way we do things right is to...)

# Conclusion

### Watch your heart and obey God’s commands (MI).

### Application:

#### Have you been disregarding God’s commands? Do you have idols in your life where you value something else more than God? Have you led people into sin, planting evil thoughts or leading them into unwholesome practices? Have you tried to find loopholes in God’s commands to satisfy your own desire?

#### Do you know God’s commands? Maybe it’s time to read the Bible again.

#### Look at your ministries—what are your true motivations for your decisions? Is it to glorify God or to boost your status in the eyes of men?



**Rick Griffith**

2018

Message of 66

**Title**

***Passage***

# Introduction

Subject with a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ blank answer in hidden text

# I. MP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

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## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

# II. MP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

# Conclusion

### Main Idea has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

### Application question

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