

Made New

The Power Of Attitude

Someone rightly said that attitude not aptitude determines ones altitude in life.

Ephesians 4:22-24

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

This morning I want to talk about the 3 facts about your attitude.

1. Your attitude reveals the real you.

Your attitude represents your disposition, your outlook, and your character. Your attitude is more important than: facts, circumstances, what others say, it's more important than your past, your education and your money. Proverbs 23:7 says, “For as a man thinks in his heart, so he is.”

Illustration: Jar of water and a lid. Shake it and ask why the water came out? The answer: the reason the water came out is because it was filled with water. What's on the inside is what will eventually come out.

Jesus was talking about this very thing in Matthew 15:17-20 The Pharisees were upset with Jesus' disciples because they didn't wash their hands before they ate. Jesus said to them, “Are you still so dull? Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man unclean. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what makes a man unclean; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him unclean.”

Understand we don't have a bad attitude just because we had a bad day (all a bad day can do is shake our jar). The reason we have a bad attitude is because you have a bad attitude inside of you/inside your jar. So remember, your attitude reveals the real you.

2. Your attitude determines the success and failure of every relationship in your life.

Bad attitudes affect your marriage, your relationship with your kids, at work, at church and friends. Case and point, Moses and his brother and sister. Let's look at Numbers 12:1-11

Most people who stir up trouble do so not out of right reasons but out of a bad attitude. The fact that Moses married a Cushite wife was not the real problem, it just shook Miriam's jar. That was just the symptom. The real problem was that Mariam had a long standing bad attitude. She was jealous of her brother's position and leadership. She allowed herself to become part of the problem.

Often times the things that we criticize and get all stirred up about are not the real problem at all. The problem is our own bad attitude.

Remember, your attitude determines the success and failure of every relationship in your life.

3. Lastly, your attitude is ALWAYS YOUR CHOICE!!!

Two men are in the same prison cell. One looks out through the bars and sees only mud. The other looks out and sees the stars and moon. They are both in the same place. What's the difference? It's the attitude of choice.

The human mind is one of Gods best creations. With it, we have the ability to think, to reason. In every one of our lives there is the positive and the negative. The choice as to which one we will focus on and feed is up to us.

Listen, we can't choose what will happen to us today, that's beyond our control, but you can choose your attitude. We each have the power to decide how we will respond to what happens to us.

Our response to things is almost always more important than the thing that is happening.

I want to read a story to you about a man named Robert. He was always saying, "I have everything I need for joy." His hands are twisted and his feet are useless. He can't bath himself. He can't feed himself. He can't brush his teeth, comb his hair, or put on his clothes. Robert has Cerebral Palsy.

The disease keeps him from driving a car, riding a bike, and going for a walk. But it didn't keep him from graduating from high school, or attending Abilene Christian University, where he graduated with a degree in Latin.

Having Cerebral Palsy didn't keep him from teaching at St. Louis JR. College or from going on 5 missions trips. And his disease didn't prevent him from becoming a missionary to Portugal. He moved there alone in 1972. He rented a hotel room and began learning Portuguese. He found a restaurant owner who would feed him after rush hour.

Then he stationed himself daily in a park where he would distribute tracts about Jesus. Within 6 years Robert had led 70 people to Christ, one whom would become his wife.

When he speaks men carry him in his wheel chair onto the platform. He lays his Bible in his lap. With his stiff fingers he forces open the pages while people in the audience wipe away their tears. Robert could have asked for sympathy or pity, but he does just the opposite. He holds his bent hand in the air and says, "I have all I need for joy."

I find it both interesting and tragic that the one thing that no person or circumstance can ever take away from us, the awesome power to choose our attitude, is usually the first thing we give away.

Remember: Your attitude reveals the real you. It determines the success or failure of every relationship, and contrary to popular belief, your attitude is always your choice.