

ATTITUDE

FEBRUARY 5, 2017

EPHESIANS 4:23 (THE LIVING BIBLE)

INTRODUCTION: It's been said that attitude determines the altitude we climb to in life. Our attitude can make or break us, help or hurt us, cause failure or success. A bad attitude can destroy marriages, children's lives, careers, churches, relationships and hinder our walk with God. No wonder Paul said our attitude should always be changing for the better.

THREE IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT OUR ATTITUDE

1. Our attitude reveals what's inside us. **MATTHEW 12:33-37**
 - A. Our attitude flows out of the core of our being. It represents our disposition, our very character.
 - Bottle of water has a loose lid. You shake it and the water squirts out everywhere. Why? Because the lid was loose? Because the bottle was shaken? Or because what's on the inside is what comes out when the lid's loose and bottle is shaken? Our attitudes are like a jack-in-the-box. Jack comes out because Jack is what's in the box.
 - **ACTS 16:22-26** – When Paul and Silas were shaken by being beaten and shackled, what came out was prayer and praise because that is what was in them. **PSALMS 22:3** They gave God something to inhabit. God doesn't inhabit pouting.
 - “When you're up against a struggle, that shatters all your dreams. And your hope's been cruelly crushed by Satan's manifested schemes. And you feel the urge within you to submit to earthly fear. Don't let the faith you're standing in seem to disappear. Praise the Lord, He can work through those who praise Him. Praise the Lord! For our God inhabits praise. Praise the Lord! For the chains that seem to bind you, serve only to remind you, that they drop powerless behind you when you praise Him! Russ Taff
2. Our attitude determines success or failure in life. **NUMBERS 12:1-11**
 - A. Miriam and Aaron had bad attitudes that manifested in destructive words and deeds. They spoke against Moses, their brother, and who God said was a humble man. They stirred up trouble. The problem was within – jealousy over Moses' wife and position. It shook Miriam's jar and she didn't tighten the lid. People with bad attitudes and loose lids, can cause big trouble.
 - B. Joseph was given a dream. He was to become a ruler. Instead, he found himself in a pit, then a prison. When shaken, he released a positive attitude that landed him in the palace. His dream came true because of what was inside him. He didn't murmur, complain or pout, he stayed positive.
3. Our attitude is our choice. **PSALMS 34:1, 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18, HEBREWS 13:15**
 - A. Speak positive words. **PROVERBS 18:20-21**
 - Paul did. **PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13**
 - B. Think on positive things. **PROVERBS 23:7**
 - Paul did. **PHILIPPIANS 4:8 (THE LIVING BIBLE)** Fix, filter, feed
 - C. Resist negative thoughts and emotions.
 - David did. **PSALMS 42:5,11**
 - Paul did. **2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5**

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ATTITUDES

1. Confidence – Can do / can't do.
2. Optimism – Optimistic / pessimistic
3. Sincerity – Sincere / insincere
4. Tolerance – Tolerant / intolerant
5. Effort – Diligent / lazy
6. Trust – Trusting / cynical
7. Forgiveness – Forgiving / unforgiving
8. Gratitude - Grateful / ungrateful