

ATTITUDE - LESSON 3
FEBRUARY 15, 2017

EPH. 4:23 TLB

Our attitude is our inward disposition toward people or circumstances. If we desire to succeed in life, our attitude must constantly be changing for the better.

JONAH'S BAD ATTITUDE

JONAH 1:1-3

God called Jonah to warn the Ninevites of God's coming judgment. Jonah disobeyed and boarded a ship to Tarshish. He chose a path in the opposite direction. His efforts brought judgment.

JONAH 3:1-3

God spoke to Jonah a second time commanding him to obey. This time he obeyed, but with an attitude.

JONAH 4:1-3

Jonah knew God was gracious, merciful, longsuffering and kind. This means he knew God's Word and character. He knew God would forgive them if they repented.

JONAH 4:4-11

Jonah had a bad attitude because his perspective was messed up. He had more concern for a gourd than 120,000 people.

- **MT. 12:38-41** Jesus called Jonah's experience a prophetic picture of His death, burial and resurrection.

LESSONS WE CAN LEARN

- 1.) Knowing God's Word is not enough. Jonah knew God's Word, but refused to submit to what God wanted him to do because of a bad attitude.
 - A.) Naaman displayed a bad attitude before submitting to God.
 - B.) We may know God wants us to forgive people, but knowing is not enough. We must submit, and obey.
- 2.) A bad attitude can bring judgment. Jonah didn't obey God until he was swallowed by a great fish and possibly given a tour of Hell.
- 3.) We shouldn't limit our view of missions. Jesus came to save the world--Jews and Gentiles alike. James and John had Jonah's narrow-minded view also. **LUKE 9:51-56** God doesn't want anyone destroyed, no matter how sinful they've been.
 - * A greater than Jonah is here!

WHAT A GOOD ATTITUDE LOOKS LIKE

Good attitudes are demonstrated in being positive, encouraging, loving, humble, teachable, cooperative, considerate, selfless, loyal and persevering. Toward:

- 1.) God - our attitude should be reverence, submission, love, trust, obedience, gratitude and worshipful.
- 2.) God's people - love, caring, forgiving, meekness, kindness...
- 3.) Authority - respectful, cooperative, accountable, humble, loyal.
- 4.) Hard Circumstances - patience, persevering, believing.
- 5.) The Church - respectful, faithful, dependable, encouraging.
- 6.) Unfairness - patient, humble, trusting in God's justice.
- 7.) Lost - compassionate, reconciling.
- 8.) Sin - intolerant, uncompromising.
- 9.) Success - grateful, humble, boasting in God.
- 10.) Misunderstanding - peace making, forgiving, patient.

DEVELOPING A GOOD ATTITUDE

- 1.) Identify and repent of bad attitudes.
- 2.) Surrender our attitudes to God.
- 3.) Feed our attitudes the Word. **PHIL. 2:5-8; 4:8**