

Blessed Attitude

John Cole / General

The Journey, Becoming a Disciple / Mind and Attitude; Attitudes / Matthew 5:1–12

Attitude is so often the difference between those succeeding and those not...between those following Christ and those not. Jesus taught His disciples to focus on developing a "Blessed Attitude!"

› INTRO

[VIDEO—MARINE AMPUTEE]

On this Memorial Day weekend, I think of the attitudes many of the men and women had to have to help our nation enjoy the freedom we experience today.

In many cases, they fought enemies at outstanding odds.

They have to maintain a disciplined attitude to focus on the mission and reach victory as well as to operate in life after their missions.

- Attitude can make an underdog a victor.
- Attitude can motivate the overwhelmed to advance.
- Attitude can enable the ill-equipped to equip themselves and others.
- Attitude can re-position from setback to success.
- Attitude can elevate the attitude of all around them.

No doubt, many of the fallen in battle read to themselves Psalms like this one in the midst of war **to help their attitude:**

Psalm 27:1–6 KJV 1900

¹The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

²When the wicked, *even* mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, They stumbled and fell.

³Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: Though war should rise against me, in this *will I be* confident.

⁴One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

⁵For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: In the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock.

⁶And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: Therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

Jesus' Teaching on Attitude

Now, let's consider again the "Beattitude" teachings of Jesus that we have looked at for 8 weeks...

Jesus pulled his disciples aside to teach them about the importance, power, and blessing of having the right **attitude**.

He did not begin with:

- Blessed are they who go to college
- ...with great parents
- ...make all the right choices
- ...look a certain way

- ...have amazing accomplishments
- ...have good health
- ...have the top grades
- ...achieve or obtain wealth

Rather, Jesus says blessed are they with the right attitudes...something anyone has the ability to develop.

The attitudes Jesus taught formed disciples that:

- See the poverty of their spirit and how much they need God, vs 3
- Mourn over the harmfulness of their sin and the sin of others, vs 4
- Are teachable, humble, and meek, vs 5
- Hunger and thirst after righteousness, vs 6
- Give mercy to others as they receive it from God, vs 7
- Pursue purity and singleness of heart, vs 8
- Make peace as a lifestyle, vs 9
- Are persecuted for righteousness' sake, vs 10-12

While we have learned from Jesus the kind of attitudes we as His followers ought to have, today I want to simply focus on His emphasis of being blessed with the right attitude.

Blessed Attitude!

A blessed attitude is not always easy to maintain, but it is always right:

10,000 Sermon Illustrations **A Servant Attitude**

A Servant Attitude

People are illogical, unreasonable and self-centered.

Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.
Do good anyway.
If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies.
Succeed anyway.
The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway.
Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.
Be honest and frank anyway.
The biggest men with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men with the smallest minds.
Think big anyway.
People favor underdogs, but follow only top dogs.
Fight for a few underdogs anyway.
What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.
Build anyway.
People really need help, but may attack you if you do help them.
Help them anyway.
Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.
Give the world the best you have anyway.

Consider these teachings of attitude in 1 Peter:

Arm yourself with the mind, or attitude, of Jesus, being willing to suffer for His sake and "cease from sin."

1 Peter 4:1-2 KJV 1900

¹ Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

² That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

Be urgent, sober, and prayerful about doing God's will.

1 Peter 4:7 KJV 1900

⁷ But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

Rejoice when you partake in Christ's sufferings as you serve Him.

1 Peter 4:12–16 KJV 1900

¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

¹³ But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

¹⁴ If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as a thief*, or *as an evildoer*, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

¹⁶ Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

Consider the example of Paul in Philippians 1:

Philippians 1:12–18 KJV 1900

¹² But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

¹³ So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other *places*;

¹⁴ And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

¹⁶ The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

¹⁷ But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

¹⁸ What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

Comments

- Paul didn't complain and gripe about his sufferings
- He knew his sufferings were for the cause of Christ
- He saw how God used his sufferings in the ministry to embolden others to preach
- He allowed room for people who claimed to minister to have wrong motives and to be contentious toward him
- He rejoiced whenever Christ was preached, even when preached by enemies

Attitude is so often the difference.

Think with me about how attitude is so often the difference between those succeeding and those not.

...it's often the difference of someone following and imitating Christ and someone who does not.

As believers, our attitude is inseparable to our faith:

Hebrews 11:6 KJV 1900

⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

› PROP

I submit that we ought to make as priority the investing into our own attitude.

People work on their physical health and strength.

We work on our finances.

We modify behaviour.

Let's step back and invest in our attitude!

Matthew 5:1-12 is an amazing starting point to sculpting our attitude, and the Scriptures are still full of more teaching that can help us mold and strengthen our attitude to become the mind of Christ.

- Humility
- Love
- Faith
- Victory
- Purpose

Attitude influences our:

1. General **Outlook**
2. Response to **Opposition**
3. Eventual **Outcome**

Think of some examples:

ILL—Hungry immigrants vs entitled citizens

ILL—Fervent Christians in persecution vs apathetic Christians with liberty

ILL—Diligent opportunists vs Defeated victims

What's the difference? Attitude!

› CONCLUSION

As it has been written:

“Attitude determines altitude.”

Work on it

Read about it

Prayer about it

Memorize Scripture

Sometimes, we can incorporate new daily activities to influence our attitude:

For example, married couples:

10,000 Sermon Illustrations Promotes a Positive Attitude

If you want to be happy, healthy, successful, and live longer, give your spouse a kiss before you go to work each day. That's the conclusion of a study conducted by a group of German physicians and psychologists, in cooperation with insurance companies. According to Dr. Arthur Sazbo, the study found that those who kiss their spouse each morning miss less work because of illness than those who do not. They also have fewer auto accidents on the way to work. They earn 20 to 30 percent more monthly and they live about five years more than those who don't even give each other a peck on the cheek. The reason for this, says Dr. Sazbo, is that the kissers begin the day with a positive attitude. A kiss signifies a sort of seal of approval, offer Sazbo and his colleagues, and they believe, those who don't experience it, for whatever reason, go out the door feeling not quite right about themselves. Whether you give this study any credence or not, an au revoir kiss every morning can do you no harm. Maybe you can expand the study and write a book, Pucker Up to Grow Rich, Feel Good, and Live

Longer. It could be a best-seller

Lastly, I do believe we have to learn to:

Trust God's placement in our lives.

if we are to develop the right attitude where we are.

How about? Ready to invest in that attitude?

Ready for a Blessed Attitude?

All true attitude adjustments first begin kneeling at the cross of Christ and believing on Him for salvation.

Do you know if you were to die today that you would go to heaven?

If you're saved, do you have the mind, or attitude, of Christ?

Do you want a blessed attitude?

Come pray today as a church at the altar or at your seat.