Do You Need An Attitude Adjustment?
Philippians 2:5-11

Read Scripture Text

P R A Y E R

************************

INTRODUCTION

No one on earth has a life that is deeper, richer, more meaningful, more abundant and more rewarding than the life you and I have as Christians, through Jesus Christ.

* Other people may have more money than you.

* Other people may wear nicer clothes than you.

* Other people may live in nicer homes than you.

* Other people may drive nicer vehicles than you.

But is absolutely impossible for someone who is outside of JESUS CHRIST to have a life as FULL and ABUNDANT as the life you and I have in Christ.

We have GOD’S WORD to guide us.
We have GOD’S SON to strengthen us.
We have GOD’S SPIRIT to empower us.
We have GOD’S LOVE to sustain us.
We have GOD’S GRACE to save us.
We have GOD’S RICHES to bless us.  
We have GOD’S PROMISES to anchor us.  
And we have GOD’S HEAVENLY HOME awaiting us.  

Though YOUR EYES be blinded, you can still SEE God’s love.  

Though YOUR EARS be deafened, you can still HEAR God’s still small voice.  

Though YOUR LEGS be crippled, you can still WALK with CHRIST.  

Though YOUR TONGUE be silenced, your life can still SPEAK of God’s glory.  

Though YOUR LIFE be ended, yet shall you LIVE with GOD forever.  

Now having said all this, let me ask you a very important question:  

If you and I have all these things going for us through Christ Jesus, why in the world would any of us ever choose to go through life with a lousy, rotten, negative, defeatist attitude?  

Second only to OUR DAILY CHOICE to do God’s will is our choice of ATTITUDE.  

YOUR ATTITUDE in life will determine your ALTITUDE in life.  

YOUR OUTLOOK on life will determine your OUTCOME in life.
Your ATTITUDE is more important than all your TALENTS, all your ABILITIES, all your SKILLS, all your CREDENTIALS, all your EDUCATION and all your EXPERIENCE. Because you can have all those things, but if you have the wrong attitude, it will hinder you from reaching your GOD-given potential in life.

If your ATTITUDE is right…………..

NO MOUNTAIN will ever be too high.
NO OBSTACLE will ever be too big.
NO GOAL will ever be too unattainable.
NO DREAM will ever be too impossible.
NO CHALLENGE will ever be too great.
NO SITUATION will ever be too hopeless.
AND NO FOE will ever be too invincible.

But if your ATTITUDE is wrong…………..

NO DAY will ever be sunny enough.

NO RELATIONSHIP will ever be rewarding enough.

NO AMOUNT OF PRAISE or ATTENTION will ever be adequate enough.

NO CIRCUMSTANCE will ever be good enough.

NO MATERIAL POSSESSION will ever be satisfying enough.

Your attitude is your choice, be it good or bad!

I want to ask you a soul-searching question this morning. *Do you need an attitude adjustment?*
When it comes to CHOOSING THE RIGHT ATTITUDE no one provides us with a greater role model than JESUS CHRIST.

Paul acknowledges this truth in VERSE 5………..

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”

I want you to imagine with me A CHURCH where everyone has the same attitude as CHRIST JESUS.

It would be a CHURCH where there is never any fussing and fighting………..or grumbling and complaining. It would be a Church where there’s never any criticizing or gossiping or backbiting. It would be a Church where everyone cares and shares……..a Church where everyone is bonded together through the love of Jesus Christ. It would be the kind of Church everyone would want to be part of.

And I want you to imagine with me A WORLD where everyone has the same attitude as CHRIST JESUS.

Imagine a world without WAR, with TERROR, without CONFLICT. Imagine a world without MURDER or RAPE or ROBBERY. Imagine a world without CORRUPTION and ABUSE and MISTREATMENT.

Imagine a world where everyone loves his neighbor and everyone is treated with equal fairness…….dignity…….and respect.
Do you see how different things would be if everyone would CHOOSE TO HAVE THE SAME ATTITUDE AS CHRIST JESUS?

In our scripture text we see THREE CHARACTERISTICS of CHRIST’S ATTITUDE you and I should want to imitate.

****************

First of all............

I. Jesus Had An Attitude of Selflessness vs. 5-7

1. There is something wonderfully attractive about the totally SELFLESS ATTITUDE of Christ.

........What if instead of coming here to SEEK and to SAVE the lost, Jesus had come here to SEEK and EXPLOIT as many people as He could.

........What if instead of being totally SELFLESS Jesus had been a SELFISH, SELF-CENTERED, SELF-ABSORBED Savior?

No doubt if Jesus had been that kind of man, we would have found the mere mention of His Name repulsive.

2. But JESUS was not that kind of man at all. Never before has this world ever known someone to be completely SELFLESS.

In VERSE 7 Paul said of Jesus that He “made Himself nothing.” That phrase literally means, Jesus emptied Himself of self.

Like pouring the contents out of a glass, Jesus emptied Himself of self until there wasn’t one single drop of self left in Him.
3. Instead of dwelling on the UNFAIR TREATMENT He received Jesus chose to focus on the UNFAIR TREATMENT of others.

Instead of dwelling on WHAT WAS BEST FOR HIM, Jesus chose to dwell on WHAT WAS BEST FOR OTHERS.

Instead of dwelling on PEOPLE NOT MEETING HIS NEEDS, Jesus chose to dwell on MEETING THE NEEDS of other people.

Instead of SEEKING COMFORT FOR HIS OWN PAIN and SUFFERING, Jesus chose to GIVE COMFORT to others in their PAIN and SUFFERING.

Complete……Total……Selflessness!!!

4. Are you COMPLETELY……TOTALLY……SELFLESS?

Are you always thinking about the NEEDS…….the HURTS ……..the TRIALS…….the BURDENS……and the TROUBLES of others.

Or are you always thinking about YOUR NEEDS, YOUR HURTS, YOUR TRIALS, YOUR BURDENS and YOUR TROUBLES.

5. Without a doubt the most miserable people in the world are those who are totally wrapped up in themselves. And as the old saying goes, “He who is all wrapped up in himself makes a very small package.”
6. Let me challenge you to do something this week.

-When you are tempted to complain about YOUR PROBLEMS, try to think of people who are dealing with bigger problems.

-When you are tempted to complain about HOW BAD BAD YOU’VE GOT IT, try to think of people are in a much worse situation than you.

-When you are tempted to complain about HOW HEAVY YOUR BURDEN IS, try to think of people who are carrying much heavier burdens.

7. Then SELFLESSLY reach out to one or more of those people. Send them a card, call them on the phone, write them a letter.

     With the SELFLESS ATTITUDE OF CHRIST simply reach out to them.

*****************************************************************************************************************************************

But not only did JESUS have AN ATTITUDE OF SELFLESSNESS…..

II. Jesus Had An Attitude of A Servant vs. 5-7 (again)

1. Do you remember what Jesus said in MARK 10:45…..

   “For the Son of Man did not come to BE SERVED, but rather TO SERVE and to give His life a ransom for many.”

2. And remember in JOHN chapter thirteen on the night before He was crucified……..on the night before He would go through the most agonizing.....most traumatic……..most horrific experience anyone has ever been through, what did JESUS do there in the Upper Room?
John tells us, “He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.”

(John 13:4-6 NIV)

3. In New Testament times the duty of washing feet was reserved for the lowest servant in the household. That night in the Upper Room Jesus performed an act of service reserved for the lowest of all servants.

4. Is it possible that at the root of many of the problems that exist in today’s Church is that too many who claim to be Christians are seeking to BE SERVED BY OTHERS rather than seeking TO SERVE OTHERS?

5. If Jesus Christ, the Son of Almighty God……..the Savior of the world, was willing to stoop down and wash the dirty, smelly feet of His disciples, then who are any of us to have the attitude we are above serving others?

“No servant is greater than his Master.”

6. Many of us are old enough to remember that famous line in President John F. Kennedy’s inaugural address: “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.”

7. Christian……..”Ask not what your fellow Christians can do for you, but what you can do for your fellow Christians.”

Jesus Had An Attitude of Selflessness
Jesus Had An Attitude of A Servant

And finally…………..
III. Jesus Had An Attitude of Surrender  vs. 8

1. I’m not sure you and I can completely comprehend just what a tremendous “step down” it was for Jesus to come to earth and become the man who would die on the cross for the sins of the world.

**ILLUSTRATION**

I mean, let’s imagine for a minute, God said to you, ‘I want you to step down from your position as a man or woman, and become the lowliest creature on earth. Instead of a man or woman, I want you to become a lowly worm. I want you to crawl on the ground like a worm. I want you to eat what a worm eats. I want you to experience everything a worm experiences.

If God asked you to do that, would you surrender to His will? Let’s take it one step farther.

Let’s suppose, God also said . . . . ”Not only do I want you to live like a worm and experience everything a worm experiences, I also want you to die for all the other lowly worms on earth.”

If God asked you to do that, would you be willing to surrender to His will?

*Jesus made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death----even death on a cross!*

2. JESUS’ ATTITUDE OF SURRENDER took Him all the way from the glories of HEAVEN . . . . . to the DUST OF THE EARTH . . . . . to an OLD RUGGED CROSS ON GOLGOTHA’S HILL.
3. How far are you willing to go for GOD?

Within all of us at times there is a rebellious spirit.

In our pride we often find it difficult to SURRENDER to GOD and obey His will.

4. When GOD said to HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, “Son, I want You to become a lowly worm and die for all the other lowly worms on earth” JESUS SURRENDERED and did what His Father asked Him to do.

**********************************

CONCLUSION

In his book, Strengthening Your Grip, Charles Swindoll writes these thought-provoking words regarding our attitude.

“Words can never adequately convey the incredible impact of our attitude toward life. The longer I live the more convinced I become that life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we respond to it. I believe the single most significant decision I can make on a day-to-day basis is my choice of attitude. Attitude keeps me going or cripples my progress. My attitude fuels my fire or assaults my hope.”

Swindoll’s Ultimate Book of Illustrations
by Charles Swindoll  pg.38
Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville TN
Copyright 1998

Perhaps this morning the Lord has made you keenly aware of some areas of your attitude that need some work. And since our attitude is our choice, the only one who can do something about your attitude is you.
May we take this admonition of the apostle Paul to heart. 
May we all strive harder to have the same attitude as Christ Jesus.

An Attitude of Selflessness.

An Attitude of A Servant.

An Attitude of Surrender.