Series: Influence

October 28, 2018

Message 5:

**Give Me Some Attitude!**

Philippians 2:5

*Guests - Handout designed with you in mind - Info and notes especially for you - won’t call or visit -*

*Next Steps*

*Generosity*

*Notes on Handout and in YouVersion App*

**Intro:** Hummingbirds and buzzards.

Both are birds - both fly - as they fly they look around at their opportunities. The buzzard sees rotting meat, because that is what they look for. That’s what they live for. They thrive on that diet.

But hummingbirds ignore the smelly flesh of dead animals. Instead, they look for the colorful blossoms and beautiful flowers.

The buzzards live on what was. They live on the past. They fill themselves with what is dead and gone. But hummingbirds live on what is. They seek new life. They fill themselves with freshness and life. Each bird finds what it is looking for.

So do we. What are you looking for? A lot of what we find comes from what we look for - comes from our attitude - and this has a huge affect on our influence -

We want to influence people! Everyone here has the power to influence! We are in a season of influence - great opportunities to bring people to Jesus …

Philippians 2:5 - You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

It has been said that “your attitude determines your altitude.” What is attitude? It is the way we think, feel and look at others.

“What lies before you and what lies behind you are tiny compared to what lies within you.” *- Larry Stockstill*

**Big Idea: Your attitude will affect your influence!**

Attitude has a lot to do with whether a person wins or loses at anything they do. When we have opportunities for influence, then we are in spiritual warfare. We need to have a winning attitude! We have the greatest team leader in Jesus, we have the power of the Holy Spirit, we have the gifts of the Kingdom of God available to us! We can’t lose! We should influence others with an awesome attitude!

Let’s look at 4 attitudes to lose and 8 attitudes to win.

**4 Attitudes to lose:**

Satan is our enemy and his evil spirits will attack our emotions to try to get us to give up. Here are some attitudes they will try to get us to adopt to defeat us.

**> Resentment**

Do you feel you are not being recognized? Do you feel that you are not being used to your potential or that you are not appreciated? Be careful, resentment may be coming on and it can hurt your ability to influence others in a positive way! It’s not all about you!

The world’s attitude is independence—”I can make it on my own.” The perspective of the Kingdom of God is that we desperately need one another and each other’s gifts. God wants to use you and desires for you to be dependent on Him—so don’t become dependent on whether anyone recognizes you or not. It is always nice to be noticed and appreciated, but don’t let a lack of it create an attitude of resentment which could destroy the effectiveness of your influence.

We are not serving people—we are serving God—so don’t worry about what others think! Minister to please Him and Him alone!

Olin Miller is credited with originally stating - “You probably wouldn’t worry about what people may think of you if you could know how seldom they do.”

Bill Vanderbush - “Might I suggest that the most under-utilized evangelistic tool is Christians who enjoy being alive?”

Don’t live a resentful life!

**> Discouragement**

Are you concerned that you are not seeing the results you would like to see? Sometimes we go fishing and we can’t keep the bait in the water—other times we sit on the lake all day without one bite!

Your spiritual enemy will try to convince you that you are accomplishing nothing, you are not making any progress, so you should just quit!

Focus on doing the will of God more than any measurable results. Measurable results are good, but a higher standard is, “Are we doing the will of God?”

PERSEVERANCE is a main key to success!

**> Self-pity**

Some people have such great pity parties they almost decorate for them!

Remember Elijah in 1st Kings 19 -

Elijah thought he was alone—but he was not! Even after God encouraged him, he struggled with discouragement and self-pity. He had to go anoint someone to take his place. This was the beginning of the end of the ministry of a great prophet!

Don’t let your mind control your spirit. Don’t become sensitive to little things that can cause you to give in to self-pity. You will lose the power to influence others.

**> Self-rejection**

Do you feel that everyone is against you? Do you feel you have no value? This is a dangerous place to be! Rejection leads to a loss of self-confidence. When we begin to reject ourselves, we set ourselves up to be rejected by others.

We should be following Christ and expecting His example to be our reality!

Luke 2:52 - Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.

**Attitudes that win:**

**> Enthusiasm**

2nd Corinthians 8:16 - But thank God! He has given Titus the same enthusiasm for you that I have.

Enthusiasm literally means to be filled with God!

What is the best possible outcome of a situation? People with enthusiasm see that outcome and direct all their energy to make it happen!

Enthusiasm is a choice. We determine that we are going to make the most of an opportunity. We CHOOSE to view situations with excitement rather than skepticism. Someone said, “Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”

Enthusiasm is not mere optimism -

Optimism is expecting that everything will work out for the best, enthusiasm is a COMMITMENT to making the best of anything—any situation or circumstance.

Enthusiasm will not become discouraged looking at the odds, but will capitalize on potential, look for ways to make situations work and refuse to focus on reasons why it won’t work.

Enthusiasm gives energy, discouragement takes energy and wastes energy.

We influence people for Jesus because we are filled with God - we see the potential in them - and we see with eyes of faith how we can make a difference in their lives!

**> Sincerity**

Acts 2:46 NIV - Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

When Jesus first met Nathanael, He said Nathanael was a man of sincerity.

Sincerity is willing to let the facts be known, honesty of mind and intention; freedom from hypocrisy. A sincere person doesn’t “fake it.”

Our motivations reveal whether or not we are sincere of character.

If you’re faking it - people smell it - like the buzzard - and you’ve lost your influence.

Be sincere. Be real.

**> Initiative**

Peter had this attitude -

Matthew 14:28 - Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.”

Peter was not a passive individual. He may be blamed for being impetuous and impulsive, but he had the initiative that made him a leader. He looked for opportunities and didn’t waste time, but seized the moment.

“Initiative is recognizing and doing what needs to be done BEFORE being asked.”

A person without initiative can sometimes become completely unresponsive. They develop the attitude, “It’s not my responsibility.”

Who are you going to influence with an attitude like that?

Donnie Reynolds …

I don’t want to lose my initiative to influence people for Jesus. I don’t want to miss those opportunities - I don’t think you do either!

**> Flexibility**

When God led Peter to visit the house of a Gentile, it required flexibility for one who had lived his whole life under the Jewish law which forbid such a thing.

Peter’s summary of the situation -

Acts 10:28-29 - Peter told them, “You know it is against our laws for a Jewish man to enter a Gentile home like this or to associate with you. But God has shown me that I should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean. So I came without objection as soon as I was sent for…”

Flexibility led to tremendous influence!

We have to let the Spirit of God help us determine what is demanded in the Word and what has been demanded by our tradition. There are times we have to be flexible to put man-made tradition aside and change in order for our influence to be effective.

Flexibility is bending without breaking.

***Picture of Tevye -***

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In “The Fiddler on the Roof,” the father would bend outside of tradition and culture in the manner in which his daughters would become engaged and married, but when one daughter decided to marry outside the faith he said, “If I bend that far I will break!” We, too, must learn that crucial difference!

Being flexible allows us to flourish in a changing environment and culture. Sometimes flexibility means accepting the inevitable rather than breaking ourselves by being unchangeable in the face of inevitable change. If we are not flexible we can waste a lot of time and energy developing a bad and complaining attitude. Lack of flexibility can also lead to a lack of sensitivity to the needs of those around us. Without that, we have no influence in their lives.

**> Positive outlook**

Philippians 4:8 MSG - Summing it all up, friends, I’d say you’ll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse.

“Accentuate the positive; eliminate the negative!” We must train our minds how to think and dwell on that which is good, positive and uplifting. Christian leaders, above all people, should be able to see the positive side of life!

Two men stood behind prison bars - one saw mud - the other saw stars!

There is no question that having a positive or negative attitude makes a huge difference in everything we do! It certainly affects our ability to influence people for Jesus!

**> Concern**

Mark 8:1-3 - About this time another large crowd had gathered, and the people ran out of food again. Jesus called his disciples and told them, “I feel sorry for these people. They have been here with me for three days, and they have nothing left to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will faint along the way. For some of them have come a long distance.”

Matthew 9:36 - When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Jesus had concern and compassion for others. This attitude made Him a great influencer — He’s the one we want to be like!

**> Teachable**

If you’re going to be a great influencer - you’ve always got to stay willing to learn! Always be studying and desiring to learn more from the Lord.

Judas had a hard time being corrected by the Lord—

When the woman came and poured perfume on Jesus’ feet and worshipped Him, Judas despised it …

On the other hand, Peter was rebuked a number of times and received correction.

In the end, Judas betrayed, and refused to repent, died in disgrace - Peter denied, but repented, and became an even more powerful influencer!

Influencers must be teachable. Without this attitude we become proud and haughty, and that leads to failure—

Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction,

and haughtiness before a fall.

**> Sacrifice**

This winning attitude will give you power to influence others.

David understood this.

1st Chronicles 29:1-5 - Then King David turned to the entire assembly and said, “My son Solomon, whom God has clearly chosen as the next king of Israel, is still young and inexperienced. The work ahead of him is enormous, for the Temple he will build is not for mere mortals—it is for the Lord God himself! Using every resource at my command, I have gathered as much as I could for building the Temple of my God. Now there is enough gold, silver, bronze, iron, and wood, as well as great quantities of onyx, other precious stones, costly jewels, and all kinds of fine stone and marble.

“And now, because of my devotion to the Temple of my God, I am giving all of my own private treasures of gold and silver to help in the construction. This is in addition to the building materials I have already collected for his holy Temple. I am donating more than 112 tons of gold from Ophir and 262 tons of refined silver to be used for overlaying the walls of the buildings and for the other gold and silver work to be done by the craftsmen. Now then, who will follow my example and give offerings to the Lord today?”

When David sacrificed, others followed and the work of the Lord was expanded.

Giving is never a sacrifice … God’s got a bigger shovel than we do!

Luke 6:38 - Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

But when we give and it seems to be a sacrifice, others follow - our influence grows - the Kingdom of God expands - people are turned from darkness to light - the world is changed!

Nothing is more powerful than this!

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Attitude means so much. Some leaders would say, “Attitude is everything.” One of the most powerful aspects of attitude is how easily it is noticed and transferred. If you have a positive or negative attitude, it will be noticed and others around you will pick up on your attitude. It will become contagious! So if you want to influence people - and that is what you are called to do - you must develop a winning attitude.

*(Sources for this chapter include Leadership 301, Bethany World Prayer Center, Baker, Louisiana, Pastor Larry Stockstill)*