

Good Attitudes in God's Service

“10 And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida. 11 And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing. 12 And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place. 13 But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people. 14 For they were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, Make them sit down by fifties in a company. 15 And they did so, and made them all sit down. 16 Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude. 17 And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.” (Luke 9:10-17 KJV)

* As we live our lives for the sake of Jesus and His call for us we need to learn and adapt good attitudes in order to be effective and productive and in order that God's name would be lifted up and glorified. * God's Word and the Holy Spirit are working continuously in our lives to develop good characters and proper attitudes that would make us serving God in a more effective way. * As we grow and get maturing in Christ wrong attitudes would be eliminated from our personalities and good characters would be implanted in our lives in order for others to see Christ's life in us.

The Lord Jesus Christ previous to the above chosen passage had sent out His apostles and gave them power and authority and instructions to do His works as we can read here: *“1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. 2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. 3 And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece. 4 And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart. 5 And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them. 6 And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.” (Luke 9:1-6 KJV)*

The apostles truly did exactly all what the Lord had commanded them to do; proclaiming the good news about Jesus and healing the sick people. Then they came back from their journey and reported to the Lord all what they did. *“And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place”*. Jesus here wanted to have a fellowship with His apostles, and the apostles would like that also because they needed a time for rest and quality fellowship with the Lord. But the crowd followed him as we read: *“And the people, when they knew it, followed him”*. So here we can see clearly that the crowd came to know where the Lord was and they followed Him and for sure as the crowd would come to meet the Lord will meet also the apostles. But for the apostles that was the time that they wanted to be alone with the Lord for rest and for refreshment, but there is a new demand and more work to be done and cannot be put aside. From what we read in **Luke 9** we can learn the good attitudes from the behavior of Jesus with the crowd. The Lord Jesus did the following with the crowd: *“and he received them, and*

spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.” From that we learn the following:

1. A welcome attitude to God's work and a welcome attitude to the crowd who needs the Lord: Certain opportunities to reach the lost will be open to us while we are resting after a hard work. We need to be ready and welcome the crowd and help them as Jesus helped them. Welcome attitude toward the crowd is part of our holiness, love and commitment to the Lord to reach the lost. It is a manifestation of forgiveness, willingness to share and suffer for the lost. That is the compassion that Jesus would need to see in us.

2. Open mouth attitude to preach the gospel, the Good News about Jesus, and speak about the Kingdom of God and the teaching of Jesus: God sent His Son Jesus to the world. Jesus suffered and died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead on the third day to give us eternal life and to be with God forever. This is the good news that the people need to hear and know because only through Jesus there is eternal life and life to the full. We need to have a consistent attitude to preach the gospel and proclaim the good news to the crowd that we are meeting wherever we are; to our neighbors, to our colleagues, in the roads, market places, offices, prisons, hospitals, etc. People needs the good news as well as they need the sound teaching so they would know how to manage their lives. *“34 And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.” (Mark 6:34 KJV)* The crowd needs salvation so we need to tell them about the good news of Jesus. As well as the crowd needs the teaching of the Lord so they can manage and enjoy their lives in the correct way. Paul said to Timothy the following: *“1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.” (2 Timothy 4:1-2 KJV)* We need to be ready with the message, the Word of God in our hearts, and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in what subject He is leading us to speak. Few to several minutes that we may spend with the people or to one person in telling the precise Word of God and the message they need in their lives will have great impact and dramatic changes in them toward living a Godly life for the Lord.

3. Open hand attitude to lay hands on the sick and pray for them to be healed: You meet many people in your daily life who would tell you that they are sick, under medication for a certain disease or you know that they are sick. In that case you don't need to hesitate to lay hand and to pray for them in the name of Jesus to receive healing from Him. God is faithful to His Word and as He promised He will fulfilled that as we lay hand on the sick we receive miracles of healing according to His will and riches in Christ our Lord.

To adapt close door attitude and close hand and close mouth attitude without preaching the good news and teaching the Word of God, and without praying for the sick this will not glorified God. In keeping the above mentioned good attitude is fruitful to us, to the lost and to the Lord. Therefore we need to keep the above principles and steps so we will be crowned with success.

When God sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ He sent Him to save us from sin and death and from the power of darkness, *“8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-*

9 KJV) But when God entered our lives and saved us He saved us for a purpose and for a task that we need to do for Him, ***“10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10 KJV)*** We are called to be instruments in the hand of the Lord to reach the Lost and to help them to know God and follow His ways.

Jesus told His disciples and us the following: ***“13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:13-16 KJV)*** Salt is to preserve the food and to give it the taste, and light to show the way. We are called to bring changes in the world and in the life of the people around us. The people as they are coming to Jesus, the Lord want us to be of great aid to Him by adapting the good attitude in God’s service and as the following:

4. Have faith in the Lord and in His power of doing miracles: ***“12 And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place” (Luke 9:12 KJV)*** The disciples requested from the Lord to send the people away because they needed a large amount of food and they were in a remote place. They lacked the faith that Jesus can do miracle and provide the food and the other needs for the crowd. Many times you are about to take wrong steps and wrong decisions in failing to reach the lost because you lack faith in the Lord. Also you may take wrong steps because you fail to believe that God can supply all your needs.

5. Present your request to God and not your command: The disciples when they came to the Lord they said to the Lord, ***“Send the multitude away”*** but the Lord said to them, ***“Give ye them to eat.”*** You need to learn that when you have a problem and you cannot manage don’t come to the Lord and suggest to Him what He needs to do. What you need is to present your request to the Lord, ***“6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7 KJV)*** And the Lord will solve the problem according to His ways and will and His glorious riches in Christ Jesus our Lord. Don’t even reason with the Lord or argue with Him. When the Lord told to the disciples to give them something to eat they answered the Lord ***“We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people.”*** God is not bound with what you have, Heaven and earth belong to Him, and God is not bound with the way you think and the way you practice. God has His own way and His own understanding as He stated in His Word: ***“8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9 KJV)***

6. In the presence of the Lord your big need can be satisfied with what you have: When the Lord said to the disciples give the crowd something to eat it means that with what they have still can manage and feed the big crowd and satisfied the large number of the multitude. Just

have faith in what He says and your problem can be solved and the big need can be met with the help and the grace of the Lord.

7. Listen carefully and obey the instruction of the Lord: The Lord instructed the disciples to do the following: ***“Make them sit down by fifties in a company.”*** The Lord for each and every problem He has a solution but He will request to do certain things before the relief will come. ***“And they did so, and made them all sit down.”*** The same for you, whatever problem you have now as you are presenting that problem to the Lord, trust in the Lord and obey and do the instruction that He is asking you to do.

8. God will speak not only to you but to the others confirming the way for you to come out from your problem: The disciples were facing a big challenge and problem that needed to be solved. As they came to the Lord He spoke not only to one person about the solution but to the group of disciples. It is good to share your burden with the disciple of the Lord and present your request to the Lord in prayer of agreement, and the Lord will confirm what He is about to do not only to you but to others around you who belong to Him.

Around the Lord there is salvation, healing, guidance, direction, blessings and abundance. You need to have more humility and more willingness to be changed and transformed by the Lord. As you are around the Lord be willing to renew your mind and accept God’s instruction.

Good to remember that you are not alone in this life. You are not alone in your endeavor to live your life for Him and to serve Him. Many times you are baffled and struggling with big problem that even you cannot figure out in your mind how you will solve it, but you have forgotten that you are not alone and you are not aware that the Lord is with you.

“14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14 KJV) God had sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth and the Word become flesh. God sent His Son for a purpose because God wants to save us from sin and death, ***“16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:16-17 KJV)*** With Jesus we had received God’s grace to live our lives unto Him, ***“16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.” (John 1:16 KJV)*** And through Jesus we come to know who God is for Jesus made God known to us in a clear and profound way, ***“18 No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him” (John 1:18 KJV)*** Jesus is encouraging us that God is real in our lives that He can save us from our troubles and our difficulties. Jesus made God known to us as a Holy God, loving God and a God who delight to save and deliver His people from troubles and calamities.

The miraculous multiplication of bread and fish to feed the big crowd is a clear declaration from God that He is a God who care and love and provide and sustain His people, His disciples and His church. That occasion is a real happening and God is continually doing the same till this day and supporting us with mighty miracles that uphold us with His grace, increases our faith and trust on Him, and help us to stand firm in this life until Jesus will come and take us to Heaven. We continue to learn from Jesus more about God and what He wants from us to do and walk in His ways.

9. Put the little of what you have in the hand of Jesus: “Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes,” Jesus is the way and the truth and the life; He is the only way to God the father as He declared: “6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6 KJV) Jesus after His death and resurrection from the dead He ascended to Heaven and He is now at the right hand of God as it is written, “19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.” (Mark 16:19 KJV) As we come to God in prayer through Jesus, He can help us and support us and He can save us for Jesus always intercede for us, “25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:25 KJV) Jesus can help us and support us as had happened here the little that was in the disciples hand when they hand it over to Jesus it was multiplied and satisfied the big needs.

10. Look up to Heaven: “Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven”. It is a good attitude to look up to Heaven and to trust God that He can satisfy the big need. God may use people to bless you, but good attitude and what always you need to do is to look to God and expect help from Him. “1 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. 2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.” (Psalm 121:1-2 KJV) Trust Him and expect always that He can do miracle and save you from your current problem.

11. Bless always: “he blessed them”. Always bless what God had given to you, and give thanks to the Lord not only when things are going well but as well as when things go wrong. “16 Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 KJV) Blessings and thanksgiving is expression of faith unto God. In blessing and thanksgiving there are multiplications. Don’t grumble and don’t be tempted to grumble against God and against others, bless and give thanks instead. God will see your good attitude and turn the situation to a victory.

12. Be willing to share: “and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.” The five loaves and the fishes were the food of the disciples, but as they showed their willingness to share that with the crowd God multiplied them and the need satisfied “17 And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.” (Luke 9:17 KJV) If we share the little of what we have, then we are working with the Lord to reach the lost, and the Lord will honor such attitude and blesses us with great harvest not only materially but with new souls that come to Christ and enter His Kingdom.

My Dear and Beloved: From our experiences with the Lord we learn new things that help us to trust Him in our daily living and service. The life wear us in all the negatives and the downfalls but the Lord lift us up and strengthen us and help us to carry on with Him and to the end. Let us ponder on all the principles that we learned.

- 1. A welcome attitude to God’s work and a welcome attitude to the crowd who needs the Lord.**
- 2. Open mouth attitude to preach the gospel, the Good News about Jesus, and speak about the Kingdom of God and the teaching of Jesus.**

- 3. Open hand attitude to lay hands on the sick and pray for them to be healed.**
- 4. Have faith in the Lord and in His power of doing miracles.**
- 5. Present your request to God and not your command.**
- 6. In the presence of the Lord your big need can be satisfied with what you have.**
- 7. Listen carefully and obey the instruction of the Lord.**
- 8. God will speak not only to you but to the others confirming the way for you to come out from your problem.**
- 9. Put the little of what you have in the hand of Jesus.**
- 10. Look up to Heaven.**
- 11. Bless always.**
- 12. Be willing to share.**

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that shows me the truth; that I need to be a responsible and an accountable disciple who will live with you to serve you, and to let your grace, love and mercy reach others. Lord thank you for your Word that gives me deep understanding and wisdom about good attitudes that I need to have in serving you and be fruitful and effective person to help the lost and bring them to you and to disciple them and teaching them your ways so they can live and enjoy fruitful life.

Now repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your lack of faith and your lack of trust in God. Repent of your doubts, fears and your negative thoughts. Confess and renounce your grumbling and complaining, selfishness, greed, anger and the rest of your bad attitudes. Confess and renounce your lack of prayers, and your non willingness to share of what you have with those in need. Confess and renounce your non willingness to evangelize and share the gospel to the lost. Confess and renounce your laziness, impatience and non willingness to suffer for Christ in serving Him. Lord forgive me, I repent from the following sins

Lord give me more faith and more trust in you and in your Word, not looking to the negative things and the obstacles that I am seeing in my eyes, but instead help me to fix my eyes unto you and build in me the spirit of thanksgiving and gratitude to all the miracles that you are doing in my life. Lord I commit myself to all the principles that I heard today from your Word. Lord renew my mind and help me to believe and do of what you said to me. Teach me your ways and guide me to the whole truth. Lord I placed in your hand the following problem

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to the instruction of yours in this message. Lord protect them and provide for them. Lord reward them for their obedience. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need to serve you. Lord make their lives a good testimony to attract others to you. Lord use them to be a channel of blessings to others. Lord help them to reach the lost, to evangelize and bring your Word to them.

Lord bless us as a church and guide us how to serve you and reach the lost. Lord we commit ourselves to the principles that we learned in this message and to have the good attitudes as we

learned today. Lord we place in your hand the following situation and need _____ Lord direct us of what to do _____. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit, and lead us and enable us to reach new people, making new disciples and training new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord I pray for more people to be water baptized, and receives the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord bless and increase all our ministries, and prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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