

MALACHI #7

WHAT BAD ATTITUDE?

Mal. 3 ¹³ “You have said harsh things against me,” says the Lord .
“Yet you ask, ‘What have we said against you?’

¹⁴ “You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty? ¹⁵ But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape.’”

¹⁶ Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name.

¹⁷ “They will be mine,” says the Lord Almighty, “in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸ And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not. NIV

Attitude is the rudder of our ship that determines whether we will find joy in life or live a life of unpleasantness.

Ill. Bro. Bass spoke of a wealthy man who had no friends. He made life miserable for others because of his attitude coming out of his mouth.

Most of the time we justify our bad attitudes. We blame others or circumstances to justify our ugly responses. Some people enjoy pity parties that they throw for themselves.

I. ANALYSIS OF A DESTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE

A. What they sowed- griping

1. They griped about God’s demands of worship.

2. the economy
3. hostile neighbors
4. God's lack of justice
5. marriage as an institution
6. their kids not wanting their religion
7. believing in God didn't seem to make that much difference.

B. What they reaped- No joy

1. **No joy in the Lord** or their faith
2. They had not discovered the power and joy of a selfless life.
3. Being caught up in self love and self satisfaction they found **no joy in anything that required giving!**

v 14 ... What did we gain by carrying out his requirements.....
They were **living for the present without any thought of the future.**
Their attitude was only good when they benefited from something.

They chose to be bitter instead of better.
They chose to complain instead of changing.

We need to see the big picture, not just the moment.

II. THE ANALYSIS OF A DELIVERING ATTITUDE

VS 16 Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name.

A. A group in Israel decided to take action.

v 16... those who feared the Lord..

B. Ways of overcoming a bad attitude.

1. Have a right attitude toward God- “those who feared the Lord”

Attitude can't change until your heart changes.

2. They were accountable to one another.

v 16....those who feared the Lord **talked with each other**

a. surround yourself with positive influencers

b. good attitude needs **reinforcement.**

3. They publicly committed themselves in writing.

v 16 ... A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name.

C. The reward of a good attitude

¹⁷ “They will be mine,” says the Lord Almighty, “in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸ And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not. NIV

1. They will be mine- **A possession of God**

2. I will spare them- **Protected by God**

3. v 18 It takes time to see the difference in the reward of the just and unjust.

But that day will come!

D. It is not impossible to have a good attitude even in the midst of struggling; it all depends on the choice of our

will.

Is it easy? NO

Is it important? ABSOLUTELY

Does it make a difference? ASBOLUTELY

Does it change everything? NOT WAYS, BUT IT

ALWAYS CHANGES YOU

III. Viktor Frankl told of men who walked through concentration camps giving their bread to others. He said, “everything can be taken from a man but one thing; the last of human freedoms—to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way.”