



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

A-MAZE-IN Life Series, Lesson 9

Lesson Title: Attitudes – What Will You Choose?

Take Home Point: Let God guide you into a faith-filled attitude.

Warm-Up:

Author Charles Swindoll once wrote: "The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that other people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one thing we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our attitudes."

Read: Acts 16:16-40; 1 Corinthians 10:10; Philippians 4:8,13

Observation (What happened?):

What were Paul and Silas doing in the prison just before the earthquake hit?

What was the last thing the two men did prior to leaving the city?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Paul became so troubled by the girl shouting what was true?

Do you think Paul and Silas felt like praising the Lord with what they were going through?

Insight:

What I find most striking about this passage is Paul and Silas's sustained attitude of joy in the Lord and service to others. It is frequently recorded in history and experienced today that after spiritual conflict, there is often an emotional and spiritual letdown. It is a tribute to their faith and God's faithfulness that Paul and Silas held up under imprisonment after their unjust arrest and beating. The opportunity to bring the gospel to the jailer's family must have been a tremendous joy to them. But then it was back to jail, for how long they could not know. Did their joyful attitude subside? *"After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and encouraged them. Then they left."* (Acts 16:40 NIV) Luke records that these men, who endured undeserved persecution, were not so much encouraged by others as they provided encouragement! What an example of joy in the Lord regardless of circumstance. Have you done that? Have I? Can we? Do we have the attitude to do it?

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What difficult circumstances are you enduring in which you need to praise God?

What one thing can you do this week to encourage someone else in difficult circumstances?

Kingdom Quest Year 2 – Lesson 9