

PHILIPPIANS – LESSON 4 – “Attitude Check”

DAY 22

Begin this week by reciting Philippians 2:5

Memory Verse:

Philippians 2:5

⁵ *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*

Now try to say it from memory.

Reflect: Jesus is Lord of all or he is not Lord at all! Since Christians surrender every area of our lives to the Savior, we know this includes our relational world. Parents to children and children towards parents...all under the leadership of Jesus. Marriages, sibling relationships, and how we connect with an irritating neighbor down the street....all of this should be surrendered to Jesus. Do you look at your relational world as the territory of Jesus lordship? If not, what will it take to make this shift in your attitude?

DAY 23

Read: Philippians 2:5-11

Reflect: This is the great Christ hymn of the ancient church. It is the progression downward and then upward. We begin with Jesus exalted, in very nature divine. We see an attitude of radical humility as Jesus does not cling to his rightful place and privilege. Instead, he emptied and humbled himself. He came as a man....in human flesh. Obedient to the Father, Jesus experienced the bitter, shameful death on a cross. He died for us, in our place, taking our shame. Then, he is exalted, lifted to the highest place, and his name is praised to the glory of God. How does the humility of Jesus give us a vision of how he wants us to live?

Journal:

- What do you learn about the humility and willing surrender of Jesus in this passage?
- What insight do you discover of the glory and majesty of Jesus as you hear how this song ends?

Pray: Thank Jesus for willingly leaving heaven, for humbly emptying himself, for boldly taking the cross, and for conquering sin and hell.

DAY 24

Read: Philippians 2:12-13 Read this passage slowly and reflectively, two or three times, and hear the call to an attitude of obedience.

Reflect: *Surrender and obedience.* These are not popular words in our modern vocabulary. Yet this is the call of Jesus and the teaching of the Apostle Paul. He reminds the Christians in Philippi that they have been obedient in the past. Now he calls them to future obedience where

they work out their salvation with fear and trembling. They are to fulfill the purpose of God as they walk in his power. How can you align your desires, attitudes, and actions with God's will?

Journal:

- Consider areas of your life over the past year that you have followed God's will and grown in obedience. How have you experienced the delight of God as you have been faithful to his calling?
- Pinpoint areas that God wants to see you work to be more in line with his will. What steps can you take to surrender your desires to the will of Jesus in these areas?

Pray: Pray for power to surrender the areas of your life you tend to hold tightly and not offer to Jesus.

DAY 25

Read: Philippians 2:14-18 Read this passage 3 or 4 times and notice a whole series of attitudes that honor Jesus.

Reflect: what's wrong with a little grumbling, complaining, and whining? Everyone does it! Why is the Apostle Paul calling followers of Jesus to check their grumbling spirit at the door? If you read the life of God's people as they wandered in the wilderness after the Exodus, you learn that one of their worst and relative sins was grumbling. They loved to do it and God hated it. It was so bad that centuries later, Paul reviewed the 4 big sins from the wilderness: idolatry, sexual immorality, testing God, and grumbling (see 1 Corinthians 10:6-10). Why do you think grumbling is listed among these other sins?

Journal:

- What negative consequences can come from grumbling in a home, church, or workplace?
- How can you check your attitude to ensure you are not becoming a source of grumbling in the various venues God has placed you?

Pray: Take time to confess where you have been a source of grumbling and complaining. Ask God to help you. Repent and turn from negative attitudes and actions.

DAY 26

Read: Philippians 2:19-24 Read this passage 2 or 3 times and pay attention to Paul's attitude about Timothy and Timothy's attitude toward the church.

Reflect: A servant, concerned for others, looking out for the interest of Jesus and his church...those are the driving attitudes of Timothy. Paul was quick to celebrate this excellent example. Timothy was like a faithful son serving his father. As you read this passage, Paul's affection for Timothy is clear to see. Think of people in your life who you celebrate because they are faithful to Jesus and because they love the family of God.

Journal:

- List some of the people you see around you who are serving Jesus and his church with consistent passion and humility.
- What can you do to celebrate and bless these people as Paul honored Timothy?

Pray: Take time to pray for the people on the list you made in your journal. Ask God to bless them, continue working through them, and using them as a shining light of what it looks like to serve God's people.

DAY 27

Read: Philippians 2:25-29 Read this passage 2 or 3 times and notice Epaphroditus's attitude of self-sacrifice and hard work.

Reflect: Epaphroditus was a spiritual brother, coworker in the gospel, fellow soldier in spiritual battles, and a messenger for Jesus. Wow! What a list of qualities! Each attribute Paul mentioned comes with attitudes that make these qualities possible. Has God placed an Epaphroditus in your life? If so, do you recognize their presence and great value to the work of Jesus in the world?

Journal:

- Make a list of the numerous attributes and attitudes that marked the life of Epaphroditus. There are more than the four listed above.
- How do each of these attributes and attitudes make Epaphroditus a valuable member of God's family?

Pray: Pray that your life would be marked with the exemplary attitudes, attributes, and actions of Epaphroditus.

DAY 28

Memorize: Conclude this week's personal study by again reciting **Philippians 2:5**:

⁵ *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*

Reflect: Think like Jesus! Think so much like Jesus that you act like Jesus. Act so much like Jesus that you show the Savior to the world. What will help you grow a mindset and outlook on life that is more and more like Jesus? In the coming days, actively inspect your attitudes and seek to align them with the examples of Jesus, Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus.