

Series: "HEART ATTITUDES"

For Message: Philippians 2:1-11; Romans 12:3; 1 John 3:16

Message Title: "Better Than Me"

Introduction: Glad you're WITH US for our SERIES "**HEART ATTITUDES**"! As FOLLOWERS of JESUS, we are DIFFERENT from the REST of the WORLD. "**DIFFERENT**" means we LEARN to LIVE LIFE TOGETHER as part of a **CHURCH / EKKLESIA** which JESUS PUT INTO PLAY (Matt 16).

BTW – The BIBLICAL KEYS we STUDY will BENEFIT you in ALL areas of LIFE!

We, TOGETHER, SERVE Jesus' ETERNAL KINGDOM in THIS LIFE. IF we are to SERVE TOGETHER, we do it JESUS' WAY and with JESUS' LOVE as THE BODY of CHRIST. A NEW COMMANDMENT ... "**LOVE ONE ANOTHER. As I have LOVED YOU, you MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER!**" They will KNOW we are CHRISTIANS by our LOVE ... and NOT by ANYTHING ELSE! John 13:34-35. PEOPLE WATCH the CHURCH. When CHURCH ACTS / BEHAVES LIKE the REST of CULTURE? WHAT'S the USE?

BECAUSE, we have a COMMAND from JESUS ... **Great Commission = "GO into ALL the WORLD and MAKE DISCIPLES."** Well, HOW do you do THAT when MOST of the WORLD wants NOTHING to DO with JESUS, MUCH LESS FOLLOW HIM!

SO ... HOW do we REACH this CULTURE WITH and FOR JESUS? By following the GREAT COMMANDMENT ... MATTHEW 22:37-39 = <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, "**You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.**" <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: "**Love your neighbor as yourself.**" <sup>40</sup>

In THIS SERIES, we're going to WRESTLE with HOW ...

If you MISSED last week, GO BACK and LISTEN. We talked about HEART and ATTITUDE. The **HEART is the COCKPIT of our LIVES** where we MAKE DECISIONS and SET DIRECTION and GOD wants US to GIVE ACCESS to the COCKPIT to HIM ALONE.

We talked about ATTITUDE / Our ANGLE of APPROACH to LIFE and that our ATTITUDE is BUILT IN US THROUGHOUT our LIVES ... and we ALL NEED to CHANGE from our DEFAULT SETTINGS in our HEART ATTITUDES! We ALL NEED to ALLOW GOD to WORK IN US and CHANGE our HEART ATTITUDES FROM our DEFAULT SETTINGS (Human Nature / Worldly) to be SET on "**CHRIST-LIKE**".

So, with the HELP of HAROLD BULLOCK'S BOOK "*The HEART ATTITUDES*", we are looking at SEVEN KEYS to RESET our HEART / ATTITUDES AWAY from WORLDLY DEFAULT SETTINGS to "**CHRIST-LIKE**" SETTINGS! TODAY ... #1

**Heart Attitude #1 = Put the Goals and Interests of Others Before My Own**

This is ABOUT SUBMISSION to OTHERS / HUMILITY. Our EXAMPLE comes from PAUL'S Letter to the PHILIPPIANS. In Chapter 2, He WRITES about JESUS CHRIST as the ULTIMATE EXAMPLE of **CHRIST-LIKENESS** ... HUMILITY! A SUBMISSIVE MIND.

WHY? Why does PAUL WRITE about JESUS' EXAMPLE? PAUL is a PASTOR who is WRITING (from prison), and HE is ADDRESSING some DIVISION in HIS CHURCH. REMEMBER PAUL writes from WHAT HE KNOWS of JESUS. And PAUL KNEW the DIFFERENCE between UNITY and UNIFORMITY. Jesus PRAYED for UNITY (John 17)!

TRUE SPIRITUAL UNITY comes from the COCKPIT of our LIVES; it's a MATTER of the HEART. UNIFORMITY is the RESULT of PRESSURE from the OUTSIDE ... it's BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION. JESUS is AFTER HEART TRANSFORMATION. "DENY yourself, take up your CROSS and FOLLOW ME."

So, PAUL BEGINS by APPEALING to the HIGHEST POSSIBLE SPIRITUAL MOTIVES ... PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2 = *Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?* <sup>2</sup> Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. <sup>2</sup> SINCE ALL TRUE BELIEVERS are SURRENDERED, SELF-DENYING, CROSS-CARRYING FOLLOWERS of JESUS, this OUGHT to ENCOURAGE them to WORK toward UNITY and LOVE, NOT DIVISION and RIVALRY.

Paul says, "***Your DISAGREEMENTS / DISUNITY REVEALS there is a HEART PROBLEM in the Church. It is NOT going to be SOLVED by RULES or THREATS from the OUTSIDE; it WILL be SOLVED ONLY when your HEARTS are RIGHT / SURRENDERED to CHRIST. Then, and ONLY THEN, will you have the UNITY JESUS PRAYED FOR!***"

Then, PAUL tells them the BASIC CAUSE of their DISUNITY was SELFISHNESS ... and the CAUSE of SELFISHNESS is PRIDE / ARROGANCE. PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4 = <sup>3</sup> *Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.* <sup>4</sup> *Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.* <sup>3</sup> Other versions say, "***Do NOTHING out of SELFISH AMBITION or VAIN CONCEIT.***" Do NOTHING out of your SELFISHNESS or your ARROGANCE. NOTHING!

"Be HUMBLE, thinking of OTHERS as BETTER than YOURSELVES." **This is SO DIFFICULT when we KNOW we are BETTER than THEM!** So, HOW do you DO THIS? And we MUST FIGURE IT OUT. Have you EVER FELT like you LOST your JOY? THIS might be ONE of the REASONS! Hear me: ***There is NO JOY in the LIFE of the CHRISTIAN who puts HIM/HERSELF ABOVE OTHERS.*** When you THINK of YOURSELF as BETTER than OTHERS, you THINK you have a RIGHT (Arrogance) to be CRITICAL / NEGATIVE and CONTROLLING. There is NO JOY there!

Jesus CAME that our JOY might be FULL ... Our JOY will NOT be FULL unless we DO LIFE JESUS WAY ... CHRIST-LIKE (Heart Cockpit and Attitude Angle of Approach). JESUS APPROACHED LIFE with a SUBMISSIVE MIND (Romans 12:2) / HUMILITY.

It's IMPORTANT to UNDERSTAND what the BIBLE means by "**HUMILITY.**" The HUMBLE person, according to JESUS, does NOT THINK LESS of HIMSELF; **he SIMPLY does NOT THINK of HIMSELF at ALL!** The BELIEVER'S EYES are TURNED AWAY from SELF and FOCUSED on the NEEDS of OTHERS. According to PAUL, Jesus SHOWS FOUR CHARACTERISTICS of the SUBMISSIVE MIND / HUMILITY.

### **JESUS' FOUR CHARACTERISTICS of HUMILITY:**

#### **#1 = He Thinks of OTHERS, Not HIMSELF**

This is JESUS' ATTITUDE. Remember we are MOVING AWAY from our DEFAULT / Human Nature / WORLDLY DEFAULT SETTINGS and TOWARD "CHRIST-LIKE". Our HUMILITY is our ATTITUDE toward OTHERS. Our ATTITUDE / ANGLE of APPROACH DETERMINES OUTCOME. If our ATTITUDE is SELFISH, the ACTIONS will be DIVISIVE and DESTRUCTIVE. We ALL have ATTITUDE, but it CAN and **MUST CHANGE:**

<sup>2</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Php 2:1-2). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Php 2:3-4). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-6 = <sup>5</sup> *You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.*  
<sup>6</sup> *Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.* <sup>4</sup>

If JESUS thought of HIMSELF, He would CLING to His EQUALITY with GOD. He's GOD! But NO! His ATTITUDE was UNSELFISH CONCERN for OTHERS. Jesus' CHRIST-LIKE "HEART ATTITUDE" was to GLADLY LAY ASIDE his DIVINE PRIVILEGES and PAY whatever PRICE NECESSARY to LOVE OTHERS!

Listen, we EXPECT the UNSAVED to be SELFISH and GREEDY, but we do NOT EXPECT this of CHRISTIANS, who have EXPERIENCED the LOVE of CHRIST, FORGIVENESS, FILLING of the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD'S LOVE. Over 20 TIMES in the N.T. GOD INSTRUCTS us HOW to LIVE with EACH OTHER. OTHERS FIRST! LIFT each other UP, BEAR each other's BURDENS ... do NOT JUDGE OTHERS, but ENCOURAGE them. "OTHER" is the KEY WORD for the "CHRIST-LIKE". We are SUBMISSIVE / HUMBLE...

## #2 = He SERVES

PUTTING OTHERS FIRST in our MINDS and WORDS is NOT ENOUGH; We MUST get to the NITTY GRITTY of TRUE SERVICE. HUMILITY SHOWS in DAILY ACTIONS. Stay FOCUSED on JESUS ... Jesus NOT ONLY TALKED to OTHERS about DENYING THEMSELVES, TAKING up their CROSS and FOLLOWING HIM. Jesus LED the WAY!

Paul WRITES of the STEPS of HUMILIATION / SUBMISSION for JESUS ... PHILIPPIANS 2:7a = <sup>7</sup> *Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.* <sup>5</sup> He goes on ... *When he appeared in human form,* <sup>8</sup> *he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.* <sup>6</sup>

FOUR STEPS for JESUS: **1** – He EMPTIED Himself of the DIVINE ATTRIBUTES / PRIVILEGES of His GOD-NESS (Gave up Divine Privileges). **2** – He PERMANENTLY became a HUMAN, in a SINLESS, PHYSICAL Body. **3** – He USED His BODY to be a SLAVE to OTHERS. **4** – He CHOSE to take that BODY to the CROSS and WILLINGLY DIED ... to SERVE ALL HUMANITY for ETERNITY!

Jesus did NOT PRETEND to be a SERVANT. He was NOT an ACTOR playing the ROLE of SERVANT. He WAS a SERVANT ... it is the TRUE EXPRESSION of His INNERMOST BEING (*HIS HEART!*) ... "CHRIST-LIKENESS" = SERVANT.

What does the BIBLE SAY? How do YOU READ IT? Jesus SERVED OTHERS. He is at the BECK and CALL of FISHERMEN, PROSTITUTES, TAX COLLECTORS, the SICK and HURTING. He SERVED MANY who HE did NOT AGREE with their LIFESTYLE or OPINIONS. Did NOT MATTER to JESUS ... He SERVED! It was NOT about HIM!

Jesus SAID it HIMSELF ... MATTHEW 20:28 = <sup>28</sup> *For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.* <sup>7</sup>

Think about the UPPER ROOM according to JOHN 13 ... Jesus WASHED their FEET. Do you know WHY Peter FREAKED OUT? FEET WASHING was the JOB of a SERVANT / SLAVE / LOWLIFE! JOHN 13:12-15 = <sup>12</sup> *After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing?"* <sup>13</sup> *You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am.* <sup>14</sup> *And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet.* <sup>15</sup> *I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.* <sup>8</sup>

SERVICE = HUMILITY / A SUBMISSIVE MIND ... New Setting to "CHRIST-LIKE"!

<sup>4</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Php 2:5-6). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>5</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Php 2:7). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>6</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Php 2:7-8). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>7</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Mt 20:28). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>8</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Jn 13:12-15). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

### #3 = He **SACRIFICES**

MANY people are WILLING to SERVE OTHERS ... IF it does NOT COST them ANYTHING (repeat). IF there is a PRICE to PAY to SERVE OTHERS, many LOSE interest. Jesus SACRIFICED His LIFE WILLINGLY for the SINS (Sinfulness) of the WORLD.

Paul WROTE ... PHILIPPIANS 2:7b-8 = *When he appeared in human form,<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.<sup>9</sup>*

It's been said, "MINISTRY that COSTS NOTHING, ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING." I AGREE! Warren Wiersbe tells of a MISSIONARY in BRAZIL who went to a religious festival and came across a BOOTH SELLING "**CHEAP CROSSES**". That's what MANY CHRISTIANS are LOOKING FOR these days ... CHEAP CROSSES. BUT God's GRACE through a CROSS was NOT CHEAP. WHY should MINE BE?

LUKE 9:23 = <sup>23</sup> *Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me."<sup>10</sup> "DENY YOURSELF, take up YOUR CROSS and FOLLOW ME!"*

Listen, CHRISTIANITY is STRANGE to THIS WORLD. The more we GIVE, the MORE we RECEIVE. The MORE we SACRIFICE (with HUMILITY ... no thought for self), the MORE GOD BLESSES us. This is WHY being BIBLICALLY HUMBLE / SUBMISSIVE brings such JOY; IT RESETS our DEFAULT to "**CHRIST-LIKE**"!

Let me ASK: Is it COSTING you ANYTHING to be a CHRISTIAN?

### #4 = He **GLORIFIES God**

Have you NOTICED that NONE of this about JESUS is ABOUT HIM? It's about the GLORY of GOD ... which is OUR GREAT GOAL as FOLLOWERS of JESUS ... to BRING GLORY to GOD! Back in Verse 3, PAUL warns, "**DO NOTHING out of SELFISH AMBITION or VAIN CONCEIT**". Vain Conceit is ALSO written as "**VAINGLORY**". IOW – It is SELF-GLORY BASED on NOTHING. It is EMPTY GLORY ... ARROGANCE.

It CAUSES us to CRITICIZE / be NEGATIVE / want CONTROL / DIVIDE people.

If you STUGGLE with GLORIFYING yourself (in these ways), let me ENCOURAGE you to GET it FIXED / SURRENDER to JESUS NOW ... PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11 = <sup>9</sup> *Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names,<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.<sup>11</sup>* BTW – ALL will BOW before JESUS at SOME POINT. IF you BOW NOW, it means SALVATION. IF you BOW at JUDGEMENT, it is TOO LATE.

THOSE who have a SUBMISSIVE MIND / HUMBLE must LIVE for OTHERS and EXPECT to SACRIFICE and SERVE ... 1 PETER 5:5b-6 = *And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."<sup>6</sup> So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.<sup>12</sup>* Give GOD the GLORY BECAUSE GOD is GOD and WORTHY of ALL GLORY. If you GIVE GOD GLORY to GET LIFTED UP at SOME POINT, you FORGOT to HUMBLE YOURSELF ... that is ABOUT YOU!

DRESS yourself in HUMILITY AS you RELATE to ONE ANOTHER... **Heart Attitude #1 = Put the Goals and Interests of Others Before My Own. CHRIST-LIKE!**

Let's Pray!

<sup>8</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Php 2:7-8). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>9</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 9:23). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>11</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Php 2:9-11). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>12</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (1 Pe 5:5-6). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

Next Steps: *Memorize Philippians 2:3-4*  
*Read Philippians 2*  
*Sign me up for Growth Group (class code): \_\_\_\_\_*  
*Invite someone to worship with you this Fall!*

### Hosting (Closing)

It's been a GREAT DAY here at BMZ... Glad you've been with us! NEXT STEPS on your CONNECTION CARD (**FULLY FILLED OUT!!**) Drop card in the offering basket.

**IF you are a First-Time Guest with us today ...** We are so glad you joined us ... And we have a GIFT for you. It's this book "**UNSHAKABLE**" and it's at the BACK TABLE / By the DOORS ... **HIT "SEND"** your COMPLETED Connection Card

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Reminder: STEWARDSHIP is DISCIPLESHIP. We RECEIVE an OFFERING EVERY Sunday BECAUSE it's BIBLICAL ... it HELPS us GROW in our FAITH!

STEWARDSHIP VERSE ... LUKE 9:23 = <sup>23</sup> Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me."<sup>13</sup>

NOT JUST LIP SERVICE ... FULL WEIGHT! FIRST of our EARNINGS go back to the ONE who Blessed us in the 1<sup>st</sup> place! That's why WE/I do Automated Giving! ... the TITHE comes OUT FIRST!

God's plan for BUILDING His Church was through TITHING and GIVING of the FOLLOWERS ... Share the GOOD NEWS! To REFRESH OTHERS!

As Developing Followers of Jesus Christ, WE need to KNOW what the BIBLE says about GIVING ... NOT just what we THINK it should say.

**MONEY is a HEART ISSUE.** And GOD wants what is BEST for your HEART! Listen, if GOD LOVES US so much that HE is willing to GIVE UP His OWN SON FOR US, WHY would GOD LEAD us ASTRAY in FINANCES?!

Next Week: **HEART ATTITUDES KEY #2 ... Let's be OPEN and HONEST!**

"God **whispers** to us in our pleasures, **speaks** in our conscience, but **shouts** in our pains: it is His **megaphone** to rouse a deaf world." — C.S. Lewis "Truth without Grace is Fundamentalism (Brutality). Grace without Truth is Sentimentalism (Hypocrisy)." Special thanks to Andy Stanley, Nelson Searcy, and R.A. Pegrum for outlines and ideas for this worship series.

<sup>13</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 9:23). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.