

Be Real in Your Attitude

Genesis 39:1-23

Jeremiah Denton, a returning prisoner of war, now free from eight years of imprisonment in North Vietnam. *“We are honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We are profoundly grateful to our commander in chief and to our nation for this day.”*

I. A person’s attitude often determines the level of responsibility they are given. (V.1-5)

A. A right attitude will win the respect of the Lord.

Genesis 39:2 *And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. (V.3) And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.*

John 14:21 *He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*

B. A right attitude will win the respect of those in leadership.

Genesis 39:4 *And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.*

Proverb 9:9 *Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. (V.10) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*

II. A person’s attitude often demonstrates their level of reliability. (V.6-19)

A. A person’s attitude reveals their ability to be trusted with public responsibilities.

Genesis 39:5 *And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. (V.6) And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.*

Matthew 25:21 *His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

B. A person’s attitude reveals their ability to be trusted with private responsibilities.

Genesis 39:7 *And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. (V.8) But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;*

Genesis 39:9 . . . *There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*

What did Joseph refuse to do with his attitude?

- ◆ He refused to have an attitude that was suspicious of God.
- ◆ He refused to get caught in the shackles of blame and fault.
- ◆ He refused to allow his attitude to become bitter and resentful.

Matthew 6:4 *Thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. (V.6 & V.18)*

Luke 12:2 *For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.*

III. A person’s attitude often dictates their level of resilience. (V.20-23)

“Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out.” - John Wooden

- A. A person’s attitude is resilient because of the standards they keep.

Genesis 39:20 *And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison. (V.21) But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.*

“Although Joseph’s surroundings had changed; his commitment to the Lord and his dedication to integrity did not.”

“Joseph was an intelligent and motivated young man who quickly perceived that he was in a set of circumstances beyond his direct control and he decided to make the best of it.” - Gene Getz

- B. A person’s attitude is resilient because of the strength they have.

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Genesis 39:22 *And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. (V.23) he keeper of the prison looked not to anything that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.*

Both Potiphar and the Prison Keeper saw the same thing in Joseph.

- ◆ He had a strength of character and presence that spoke of confidence and strength.
- ◆ He had an attitude and atmosphere that was so impressive that they surrendered all under his supervision.

Romans 8:37 *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*



A vertical graphic with a background image of a woman and a young boy. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says "Be REAL" in large, bold, black letters. Below that, "In Your:" is written in a similar font. Then, four lines of text list the components: "R - Relationships", "E - Encouragement", "A - Attitude", and "L - Life". At the bottom, it says "A Teaching Series By Dr. Hampton Drum" in a smaller font.