

## **Cheerful Evangelism**

Scripture: Acts 16:25 – 34

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Have you ever encountered a person with a bad attitude? Let us be honest with ourselves, sometimes we are that person!

Let us examine a person with a bad attitude. They complain with no pleasant tone in their voice. They grumble without a smile on their face. They are ungrateful without a thank you within them. These are a few things a person with a bad attitude shows. Be honest, a person with a bad attitude has very little enduring qualities. They are unattractive and few things of beauty come from them.

If we are Christians, our attitude should be the same as our Savior's. If we listen to the Gospels, we will see that Christ's attitude is not of a person with a bad attitude. We will see Jesus as the perfect display of the fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness. A person with a bad attitude possesses none of these fruits.

We are told that there was nothing physically attractive about Christ. There was nothing that would draw people in of a physical nature. Yet people were inspired to follow him because they knew him to be beautiful in spirit.

If you want to be beautiful, do not just look in the mirror. Check your attitude, is there a beauty there? If we want to be beautiful, do not just check the mirror. Check our attitude, is there a beauty there?

We are called to be fishers of men. We will not attract people by our physical appearance; we will attract people by our attitude. Is it the same as our beautiful Savior?

Have you smiled at someone today? You probably have not given that idea much thought. Just think for a moment – have you smiled at someone today?

I consider myself a happy person who smiles a lot. I consider myself a positive person with a good attitude. So what makes me a cheerful person? The answer is simple – my happiness comes from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Why do I always seem to see the things with a positive attitude? The answer is simple – my attitude comes from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

About 2000 years ago in a jail cell in Philippi, Paul & Silas were imprisoned for testifying about Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us they prayed and sang hymns to God constantly. Then suddenly something happened – in the Book of Acts 16:25 – 34 it says that the prison Paul and Silas were in had a mighty earthquake that shook the foundation of the prison and immediately all the doors in the prison opened up. Everyone who was chained was unfastened. The jailor assumed that his prisoners had escaped. The jailor decided to kill himself! But Paul shouts out – ‘Do not be afraid and do harm to yourself for we are all here!’

The jailor rushes in and he falls down trembling before Paul and Silas. He then takes Paul and Silas outside of the prison and asked Paul what he must do to be saved? Paul says ‘Believe in Jesus Christ and you will be saved, both you and your household. Paul then talked with the jailor about Jesus. Paul became a cheerful evangelist for Christ.

A few years ago, my son Joshua and his family went through three earthquakes in Japan. Let me share what my grandson Grayson’s told Pappy about the earthquakes. Grayson shared how the house shook and a few things fell off the walls. He said he was really scared!

Because of these two men, Paul and Silas, and their personal evangelism, the prison guards were saved that day. Because of these two men of faith in Jesus Christ and their enthusiasm, the jailers' families were saved that day. Because of their cheerful evangelism the jailor and his family were saved!

I bet you that there is someone near you who has had a great earthquake in their life. Yes, sitting next to you or living near you is someone who probably has suffered a great earthquake in their life. Have you been their Paul or Silas in their life? Have your friends & neighbors who have suffered a great earthquake in their lives seen your great faith? They were scared and they may have asked you – ‘What must I do to be saved?’ Did you reply– ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved. You and your household will be saved!’?

Because of you and your cheerful evangelism, have you saved someone? Because of your faith in Jesus Christ and your enthusiasm, has some families imprisoned in their lives been saved?

How about you – Has there been a great earthquake in your life that opened the doors to the prison of your life? Have you stepped out of your prison and shown your great faith in Jesus Christ?

Life is scary, there is no denying that! Are you a cheerful evangelist who replies – ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved. You and your household will be saved!’

Because of your personal experiences, have people been saved? Because of your faith in Jesus Christ and your enthusiasm, have you come out of your prison of fear and saved others?

May our Lord help us to live our lives joyfully and to always keep our doors open to the lost. May we always see Jesus in everyone. And God, help us to have a beautiful attitude like that of your Most Holy Son, Jesus. May we become our church's Paul & Silas. May we become cheerful evangelists. May we have a strong faith and strong enthusiasm for serving Jesus.