

DAY 15

Attitudes Determine Outcomes

Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, ... he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death — even to death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5–8

Leadership Affirmation

When others follow me, I model what it looks like to follow Christ.

Before I was a pastor, I worked in radiology. I had a patient come in for an MRI one day. It was the end of the day, and she was the last patient on the schedule, so when I finished her scan, I got to go home. She came in for an MRI of her brain. She was 36 years old and had been having headaches for a few months.

She was a good patient, following every instruction perfectly. The problem was her husband and kids. All three of her children were under the age of ten. They started running, screaming, and jumping off chairs in the waiting room, knocking a picture off the wall that shattered on impact. When I heard the crash, I got up to make sure everything was okay. The husband was just sitting in a chair watching TV. He looked up and said to me, “They just broke your picture. What are you going to do? Boys will be boys.”

I stared at him for a minute with a look of disgust on my face, trying to beam a subliminal message into his brain. He didn’t get it. Moments later, I heard another crash. I got back up and found one of the boys had climbed up on the crash cart and knocked the defibrillator off. At this point, I’m mad. I just want to go home.

But then something changed. Her images started coming up. She had a massive brain tumor. It was the most aggressive form of brain cancer. I slumped back in my chair. I just sat there for a minute. The kids had started getting rowdy again. This time, though, I wasn’t annoyed by them. My heart hurt for them because I knew the moment I got their mom off the exam table, their entire world was about to be turned upside-down.

The only thing that changed for me was my attitude. Your attitude determines your actions. When you are presented with situations, ideas, or people, your attitude towards them will dictate how you respond in the moment. Your attributes determine your attitude, and your attitudes drive your actions.

Prayer for Protection

Lord, please protect me from any temptation or distraction that pulls my attention away from the noble calling of leading with the mind and heart of Christ.