Daily Devotion #216

**Attitude Is Everything**

1 Peter 2:18 (NASB) *“Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.”*

I have had many jobs over the years - some with great bosses and some with not-so-great bosses. Most everyone who has lived long enough to work for someone has had the opportunity to be directed by a boss who was not such a nice person. Mostly that was due to the fact that the bosses considered themselves above everyone else. It was their agenda first, and everyone else was expected to fall in line with that agenda regardless. This situation is challenging. In fact, it is miserable to wake up every day to go to a job you already don’t like and work for a person who thinks of you as a tool instead of a person.

Sadly, many people across the world have found themselves in that very predicament. And its not that they want to stay there, but often people don’t have another choice. Life has been such that they need the job and, therefore, just endure the treatment they get. What makes that kind of work environment difficult in America is that Americans don’t think they should have to put up with this treatment. We feel that life as a free person in a free nation should be about choosing what we want, and so we don’t need to stay in a place where we are treated poorly.

But interestingly, as the Apostle Peter is instructing the persecuted saints in the surrounding regions of Rome, he wants them to understand that not only are they to serve their king, as corrupt as he was, but they are also to serve those who they work for, even if those masters are unreasonable. Peter’s day was a bit different from our life in America. The region was mostly occupied by slaves. In fact, most of Rome was run by slaves - people who had no choice about where they worked or for whom they worked. Too often those poor people were treated worse than cattle or some other working animal. They were considered to have no value other than what they could do physically for their master. It was Arostotle who wrote, “*A slave is a living tool, and a tool is an inanimate slave.*” MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The - 1 Peter.

When the Gospel came to Rome, many of the slaves were born again. They surrendered their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. So as spiritually free men and women, they began to wonder how they should live their lives as slaves. Many thought they should be treated differently. And that stands to reason. And many were, because some worked for masters who had became believers in Christ themselves. So the instruction to serve those masters well was less of a challenge and more of a blessing. But there were many born-again slaves who served evil men who didn’t care about their slaves new-found faith.

But the message was still the same - serve your master faithfully, remembering that you first serve Christ. Serve them with diligence and with a full heart. How terribly difficult it would be to do that - to serve when everything about them wanted to rebel. But when Christ changes our hearts, we are free men and women. Maybe not free in this life physically. But free internally. Free eternally. We know that this life will end and eternity will begin with the most gracious and kind master.

So for us, the Lord wants us to serve the same way. We are called to change our attitudes so that our hearts are focused on Jesus, our true Master while faithfully serving those in the world, no matter how they treat us. In America, we can look for another job, but God’s message is, no matter who you serve, do it with a heart of submission because you first serve Christ. Jesus is your real boss. And one day you will be removed from that dreaded workplace and live eternally with Him. So, take heart beloved, Jesus knows your situation. Serve as a testimony to Jesus. Serve as a testimony to the fact that no earthly person can rob you of your joy or make your life miserable. The joy of the Lord must be your strength.