

Be around the people you want to be like because you will be like the people you are around
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Matt 5:1-2 (msg) When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

Jesus taught first the Beatitudes

Beatitude means a supreme blessedness, exalted happiness

Jesus said you are supremely blessed and happy beyond means when your attitude is right

Matt 5:13-16 (msg) Let me tell you why you're here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand-shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

Jesus plan and purpose for disciples was to be a positive influence on those they came in contact with

Title: It's Time to surround ourselves with positive influence

Influence def – **the capacity or power of persons or things to be a compelling force on or produce effects on the actions, behavior, opinions, of others**

2 life changing scriptures that will make a difference in your Christian life

1. 1 Cor 15:33 Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character

Jesus did not want to make same mistake with disciples as was made with first 12 into promise land

Synonyms – sway, control, instigate, persuade

Jesus was determined to train disciples in how to be a positive influence since so many eternal souls would depend on them

Statement: **Negative influence breeds negative thoughts and therefore creates negative actions**

Great example is of the negative influence 12 had on entering promise land

Numbers 13:1-3 The Lord said to Moses, send some men to explore the land of Canaan , which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders. So at the Lord's command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.

Facts concerning influence that is negative

Numbers 13:31-33 But the men who had gone up with him said, We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are. And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, the land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim) We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.

Results of Negative influence

Can't attitude - We can't attack those people

Deceptive attitude – we seemed like (false perception of who we are)

To have positive effect we must be secure in who we are and what we can do

Numbers 13:30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, **We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it**

Phil 4:13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength

2 Cor 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Unfortunately Second: Negative, can't deceptive attitude brings forth negative thoughts

Result of Negative thoughts Question: what kind of negative thoughts

Fear and irrational thoughts

Numbers 14:1-4 That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, if only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt? And they said to each other, we should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.

Fear: **Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword?**

Irrational: **Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?**

On the other hand Joshua spoke with a positive and sound mind

Numbers 14:6-9 Joshua son of Nun and Caleb Son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes and said to the entire Israelite assembly, The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.

Not only will negative influence create I can't and deceptive attitudes and create fear and irrational thoughts but it will bring forth

Results of Negative actions Fact: you end up losing instead of winning

Numbers 14:10 But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the Tent of Meeting to all the Israelites. The Lord said to Moses, How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them? I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they.

Warning to those who are negative!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Results of being a negative influence

Numbers 14:36-37 So the men Moses had sent to explore the land, who returned and made the whole community grumble against him by spreading a bad report about it-these men responsible for spreading the bad report about the land were struck down and died of a plague before the Lord

2nd life changing scripture that will make a difference in your Christian life

1. 1 Cor 15:33 Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character

2. 2 Cor 6:14-17 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord, touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. (don't hook up with those that will pollute you)

Question: What's at stake?

Deut 30:1-5 (msg) Here's what will happen. While you're out among the nations where God has dispersed you and the blessings and curses come in just the way I have set them before you, and you and your children take them seriously and come back to God, your God, and obey him with your whole heart

and soul according to everything that I command you today, God, your God, will restore everything you lost; he'll have compassion on you; he'll come back and pick up the pieces from all the places where you were scattered. No matter how far away you end up, God, your God, will get you out of there and bring you back to the land your ancestors once possessed. It will be yours again. He will give you a good life and make you more numerous than your ancestors.