

Sermon Title: New Beginnings – How do we react?

When I was growing up, I had a piece of paper on my wall that said – “The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company...a church.... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so, it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes.”

- How is your attitude today? Monday through Friday?

How do you react when you sin?

Genesis 13:1-18

Some examples from Scripture of how people react to sin:

1. Adam and Eve: Reacting to their disobedience.
 - a. **Genesis 3:8-13**
 - b. Adam and Eve reacted to their sin by **hiding** out of fear, by **blaming others**, and by **blaming God**.
 - c. Shame and guilt are natural reactions to our sin
 - d. What sin are you hiding, from other people or from God?
 - e. Is your natural tendency to blame others or to take responsibility for your sins?
2. Cain: Reacting to the murder of Abel.
 - a. **Genesis 4:9**
 - b. Here we have another common reaction to our own sin, and that is **lying**.
 - c. God already knows what sins you commit, so its futile for all of us to try and lie to God too.
 - d. When we are confronted with our sin isn't it very natural to lie about it?

3. Abram: Reacting to not trusting God and lying about Sarai
 - a. **Genesis 13:3-4**
 - b. Abram reacted well by going back to where he first encountered God in the Promised Land and called upon the name of the Lord.
 - c. I have to assume that Abram **repented** of his sin right then and there.
 - d. Abram now does trust God to provide for him enough to give that choice over to Lot.
 - e. When we sin, we must run toward God and not away from Him. Repenting puts us back into a right relationship with God, which frees us up to make wise choices, and to trust that God will provide what we need.
4. Lot: Reacting to Abram's sin.
 - a. He could very easily justify that he didn't do anything wrong in Chapter 12.
 - b. **Gen 13:10-11**
 - c. He saw that the land of the Jordan Valley to the east was like Egypt, prosperous and better to increase his wealth.
 - d. Lot reacted to sin, by **doubling down on his greed**.
5. King David: Reacting to killing Uriah and taking Bathsheba.
 - a. **2 Samuel 12:13**
 - b. This reaction is why David is called a man after God's own heart.
 - c. **Psalms 51:1-12**

Challenges:

1. Continue throughout the week paying attention to how you react to your **sin**.
2. Take time each morning and choose what your attitude is going to be that day.
3. Put your trust in God instead of yourself.
 - a. **2 Corinthians 5:7**

How different can our life be this week if we choose to have a godly attitude, we choose to put our trust in God and His promises, and we choose to not double down on our sin by hiding, blaming others or blaming God, or lying about it?

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