

## **“CHRIST CENTRED ATTITUDE”**

The vital **question** when **assessing** our **labours** for the **Lord** is:

*“Will our work be merely an outwardly impressive structure, or a genuine, spiritual accomplishment?”*

In this address, we will be considering personal **attitudes** in Leadership that need to be, **embraced & nurtured**.

Those attitudes that are **essential** to **securing** God's *spiritual, ongoing, lasting blessing*, on our **labours**.

What better **basis**, to **assess** what Biblical leadership **attitudes** we need for **true spiritual blessing** ---

Than to **consider** those **evidenced**, in the Leadership **ministry** and **example** of Christ

This is **undoubtedly** a vast **subject**, so only a sample of **attitudes** will be considered this afternoon.

However I trust the Christ centred **attitudes** addressed will serve as a **reminder** for those **required** in **Leadership**.

Seeing also, how we can be **helped** to **embrace** these **attitudes** and **nurture** them in our **Ministry**.

### **1 CHRIST HAD AN ATTITUDE OF WHOLEHEARTED COMMITMENT**

#### **1- To His Father's Will**

Reading the **account** of the life of Christ, we are constantly **reminded**, of His **adherence** to His Father's **will**

In other word's the Lord **lived** His **life** here on earth, with the great **objective** of **pleasing His Father!**

This is **evident** when at the age of twelve, in the **temple**: Christ tells His **worried** parents who **sought** Him

*“Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?” Luke 2:48-49*

Then at the **beginning** of His **public ministry**, at the age of thirty, when **authorising** John to **baptise** Him -

He **explained** to John, this was in **accordance**, with His Father's **will** and to **fulfil** all **righteousness**

Significantly following this action, God the Father **approved**, His wholehearted **obedience** saying from heaven

*“This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased”*

Jesus Christ as the Perfect Man, **always** sought to **please** His Father, in **doing His will** at all times!

There was **complete** and perfect **harmony**, between the **will** of the Father and the **walk** of Christ!

He could testify: *“I do always those things that please him.” John 8:29*

This was **evidenced** in the most **profound** and **deep** manner just before His **death** in Gethsemane

At which time when His soul was **exceedingly sorrowful** unto death He **repeated** these words in prayer:

*O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou [wilt].*

The **guiding** factor, in the Garden of Gethsemane was willing **pure submission** to the will of the Father whatever.

While here upon **earth**, the Lord **considered** Himself, to be a **servant** of His Father in **obedience** to His **will**

How can we be helped to follow the **example** of Christ in His **attitude** of committed **wholehearted** obedience?

The Apostle **writing** to the Church at Philippi, tells them to **develop** a Christ-like **mindset** of **obedience**

*“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.” Philippians 2:5-9*

We need to **develop** an obedient servant mindset, willing to make ourselves of **no reputation in humility**  
Constantly **cultivating** this Christ-like mindset is part of **exercising ourselves unto Godliness**

There was a **fundamental principle** that was always evident in the **committed attitude** of **Christ!**  
In His **unswerving commitment** to **obedience** - He always sought, to bring **glory to His Father!!**  
This was **evidenced** in His **heartfelt prayer contemplating Calvary**, when He said  
*"Father, glorify Thy name."*

This **prayer** brought an **immediate response**, from **God the Father** in heaven

*Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. John 12:28*

Christ's **unswerving commitment** to **obedience**, was **always** meant to bring **glory** to His Father

In so doing, His Father **owned & blessed** Him & ultimately **exalted** Him, giving Him a name **above every name**

*From this we learn that if our labours are to be **owned and blessed** of God and be truly spiritually fruitful*

*Our attitude must be one of **Obedience to God** and an **Unswerving Commitment** to bring glory to God*

*When our labours are undertaken in this **attitude of mind and commitment** The Lord will **own & bless** them*

*A Christ-like attitude of **Loyalty** to God the Father and the **Glory** of God and not to man is the need of the hour*

Recently I was **reminded** of a Reformed Church Website, where the **objective** was clearly and concisely stated

*Our purpose as a church is to glorify the God of the Scriptures in promoting His worship, evangelizing sinners,  
edifying saints, and showing benevolence to the needy.*

Note the statement is firstly to **glorify God** – Without this **objective** and **attitude** there can be no **blessing**

## **CHRIST HAD AN ATTITUDE OF COMMITMENT**

### **2- To the Word of God**

I would like us to consider two **examples** of where the Lord as a Perfect Man showed **commitment** to the **Word**  
Christ: *"The Word made flesh and dwelling among us"* constantly **used** the OT Scriptures in His **ministry**  
His **attitude** to the **inspired** Word of God was one of total **confidence** in it and **commitment** to it!

The first example to consider is at a time of **extreme stress** and **severe attack** from the **enemy** of souls.

He had been in the **wilderness** forty days and forty nights, **fasting**, and in a state of **utter weakness physically**

The devil came for his **most powerful assault** upon the Lord, in that stark **wilderness** with the **wild beasts**

Here the Lord **responded** to the **terrible temptation** of the devil, by **accurate** use, of the **inspired** Word of God

Three times it is **recorded** the Lord **responded** to satan's assaults, with the **statement** *"it is written"*

Here His **commitment** to the **Scriptures** sets forth the **perfect example** for us to follow in our **smaller battles**

Christ's **commitment** to Scripture is again **manifest** when He **ministers** to the two on the road to Emmaus

These two are *downcast – distressed – discouraged – confused – fearful – wondering* what the **future** holds

Here Christ simply **expounded** to them, from the Word of God, **showing** how they all **spoke** of Him

The result of the Scriptures, **applied** under the **power** of the **Holy Spirit**, was heartfelt **blessing!!**

Later we read He **expounded** to the **gathered** disciples, that they might **understand** the **Scriptures**

There is no **spiritual blessing – awakening – revival – growth** – without a **committed attitude** to **Scripture**.

In the days of great **spiritual blessing**, in the early New Testament Church we can **notice** this in Apollos

Apollos was described as **mighty** in **Scriptures** fervent in spirit and diligent in **teaching** the things of the Lord

Yet at the outset of his minstry **knew** only the **baptism** of John

Aquila and Priscilla two **gracious** believers took him into their home and **expounded** the Way of God more fully

Apollos responded wholeheartedly by **submitting** to Scripture and **developing** His ministry to **Christ centred**

The point being here that the attitude of Appolos was that of **total submission to Scripture**

His ministry was **moulded** by Scripture and his God given gift of **communication** was greatly used

The result, was that his now - Christ centred ministry - **proved** of great blessing to those **saved** by **grace**

We also read he went on too mightily **convince** the Jews by **Scripture** that **Jesus** was **Christ**

*From the **example** of Christ we see an **attitude** of total **unreserved commitment** to Scripture*

*It formed the **epicentre** of His Spirit filled ministry*

*When the Scriptures **no longer** form the **basis** and **authority** of our preaching and practice*

*There remains **nothing** for the Holy Spirit to **honour** and **bless** in our ministry and we build a **soulless** structure*

*As much as we are **exhorted** to have a Christ-like mindset of **humble obedience***

*So we are also called to an **attitude** of **committed adherence** to Scripture in our ministry*

*For this to be a reality we must develop our ministry from Scripture with an **attitude** of submission to it.*

*Rather than **adapt** Scripture to suit our **preconceived** intentions in **ministry***

## **CHRIST HAD AN ATTITUDE OF COMMITMENT**

### **3- To the Gospel Ministry**

If we are to **follow** our Lord and Master fully, the Gospel will be **paramount** in the **attitude** of our minds

The Gospel is to form **part** of our regular ministry with an **attitude** of **commitment** and **respect** to its **message**

It is the Gospel of God the **power** of God unto salvation – For **how** shall they hear without a **preacher**!

The Apostle Paul **said** to the Church at Corinth:

*“Necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”*

The Lord was **totally committed** to **preaching** the Gospel – Everything else was a **support** to this **objective**

The **first recorded** words of the Lord Jesus, in terms of His **preaching ministry** are **centred** in the **Gospel**

*“The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,” Luke 4:18*

The **last recorded** words of the Lord Jesus to the **Apostles**, in the Gospel of Mark are **centred** in the **Gospel**

*“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

We can **note** how the Apostles **responded accordingly** for later we **read**:

*20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with [them], and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.” Mark 16:15-20*

*To have the same **attitude** of Christ and the Apostles is to be totally **committed** to the **Gospel of God***

*For one of the most **powerful ways** to demonstrate we are **committed** to **God’s Way** as His **servants***

*Is to **serve** others in **preaching** the Gospel – This attitude of **commitment** is **well pleasing** to God*

*To help understand the **significance** of this Paul tells us he is a **debtor** to the world to **preach** the Gospel*

*In other words he is under **obligation** and the **command** of Christ to preach it – Respectful attitude for it*

## CHRIST HAD AN ATTITUDE OF COMMITMENT

### 4- To the Teaching Ministry

In **harmony** with His **commitment** to His Gospel, as being the Gospel of God unto **Salvation**

Christ was also committed, to **teaching the truth** about the **Christian Life**.

The point being that Christ was **faithful** in His **teaching** the **whole counsel** of God, however **challenging**

Following this **attitude towards** the teaching ministry the **Apostle** Paul could **testify** to the Elders at Ephesus

*“26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I [am] pure from the blood of all [men]. 27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you **all the counsel of God**. 28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” Acts 20:26-28*

In His teaching Christ was **open** and **honest**, about the **true nature** of its **calling** and **walk**

The **attitude** and **approach** of Christ, to **teaching** about the Christian life is so **different** to current **trends!!**

**Doctrine** is being **preached** but not **practice!**

It could be said there is a **healthy attitude** towards **doctrine** – but an **unhealthy attitude** towards **practice**

**Christ** taught about **denying** self – a cross to be **borne** – losing ones **life** in terms of **self**, **worldliness** - **tribulation**

We are also given a **perfect example** of His **commitment** to **teaching ministry** in the Sermon on the Mount

There the Lord taught the **right approach** to the Law – The **right approach** to **walking** with God

He commenced His sermon, by **teaching** the **Characteristics** of a **Christian** – **Beatitudes**

His **approach** at the **outset**, would not be described as **setting** out, to be **seeker sensitive** but truly **honest**

In His message He **stripped** away *religiosity – hypocrisy – pride – materialism – error – lust – envy*

He **exhorted** to *holiness - prayer – commitment - Godliness* – to **building** on the **right foundation** of His Word

The Lord was **committed** in His **faithful teaching** on the Christian Walk – No man can **serve two masters!**

He **taught** he that **loves** his life shall **lose** it while he that **hates** his **life** in this world shall **keep** it unto **eternal life**

There were other **times** when the Lord in His **commitment** to **honour** His Father **warned** His **hearers**

When **preaching** the Gospel for Salvation to **unbelievers** He **warned** about the danger of **unbelief** and **hell**

When **teaching believers** about the true Christian Life He often **warned** about the danger of:

**Hypocrisy, lethargy and worldliness**

Yet at the **heart** of Christ's teaching ministry, was a **heartfelt** understanding, of those to whom He taught

On one occasion having **departed** by ship to a deserted place for **rest**, the crowd observing this, **followed** Him

*“And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was **moved** with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.” Mark 6:34*

He understood the people needed **teaching** from the Scriptures – His heart **went** out to them in their **need**

So when the Lord **taught**, His message **resonated** with the **people** for He **understood** their lives

For we know in this context of **understanding** He **Himself** was **tempted** in all things, yet **without** sin

Without **compromise** He had an **understanding** of their *weaknesses – weariness – temptations – dangers*

*A humble understanding of our own weaknesses will help to make our ministry develop from:*

*Just **proclaiming** truth - to our hearers being **persuaded** by truth – In other words **touching** the mind & heart*

Christ **accomplished** so much for the Church simply through His **committed attitude** to the **teaching ministry**

It was this **committed** faithful instructive helpful teaching ministry that **set** the **pattern** for the Apostles to follow

We see so much **evidence** of this in the various letters where there is **constant teaching** about the **walk** - So that we are **constantly** *exhorted, warned, challenged, corrected, comforted and built up* in the **faith** *Following the **example** of Christ and having the same **attitude** we will **preach the whole counsel of God** This will **involve** a ministry of comfort – challenge – correction – counsel – condemnation of worldliness We are called to **launch** out into the deep and **engage** ourselves by faith to a **confident attitude** in **all** the Word But doing so with **understanding compassion** and **commitment** to **engage** with our **hearers** in their lives This was one of the **evidences** that made the **ministry** of the Lord **different** from that of the Scribes*

## **CHRIST HAD AN ATTITUDE OF COMMITMENT**

### **5- To the Exercise of Prayer**

Prayer here on earth was a **means** our Lord used to **commune** as a Perfect Man, with His Father in Heaven Christ valued and **appreciated** prayer, **beyond anything** we can **contemplate** From the **example** of Christ we **know**:

At the beginning of His **public ministry**, when He was baptised, he **prayed** The heaven was **opened** and the Holy Spirit **descended** on Him, in the **form** of a dove It appears from this event, that the Lord was praying for the **blessing** and **power** of the Holy Spirit on His ministry This event testified, He was **indeed** the Messiah, the **anointed** Christ the Son of God **filled** with the Holy Spirit *From this we are reminded of the importance of the **blessing** and **power** of the Holy Spirit on our own ministry*

At other times, we read He went to be **alone** in **prayer** to His Father, sometimes **early** in the **morning** Our own **effectiveness** as servants of the Lord is **affected** by our **attitude** to prayer and dependence upon it *Without this **exercise** our **decision making** is in our own **wisdom** and our ministry is **dry** and **barren***

*It is said that when Robert Murray M'Cheyne in revival times **entered** the pulpit The congregation began to weep realising he had come from the **presence** of the Lord in prayer This is a world **apart** from the frivolous careless manner which some worship services are **commenced** today*

The **witness** of Christ as a Man of prayer, **inspired** the Disciples to ask Him to **teach** them to pray So the Lord **gives** to them a **Pattern** for **Prayer**

When making **crucial** decisions the Lord **demonstrated** his **committed** attitude to **prayer** He spent a whole **night** on the mountain side in **prayer**, before **appointing** the twelve disciples *He set this perfect example as a Man for us to follow to be those whose **attitude** to prayer is deeply respectful*

Before His suffering at **Calvary** in Gethsemene, He **prayed** in great **agony**, to His Father, **submitting** to His will *This kind of praying is the **greatest test** for us in our own lives, that the will of the Lord be done Yet this prayer of faith is **well pleasing** to God and **renders** us as vessels through whom God can work*

Christ's **commitment** to prayer is **described** in Hebrews as being **offered** up at times with loud cries and tears *Prayer is often in the **valley** of **struggle** and **tears** where we have to **wrestle** for the blessing and deliverance*



There is another aspect in the **attitude** of the Lord in prayer, and this relates to **thanksgiving**  
When the Lord in mighty power, fed the five thousand he did so first, by giving **thanks** in **prayer** to the Father  
When He raised Lazarus from the dead He did so first, **giving thanks**, to the Father in prayer, for hearing Him  
When He instituted the Lords Supper, He **gave thanks** to the Father in prayer for the bread and wine  
This was profound, inasmuch as the Lord was **thanking** the Father, for His cup of suffering and death

From this **commitment** to prayer, the Apostle Paul **teaches** us, in **following** the Lord's example  
*"In **everything** by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."*

Christ taught that men ought **always to pray** and not to **faint**  
This **places** the highest **priority** upon prayer for us and **requires**, likewise a **committed attitude** to prayer

*From the example of Christ we learn that for **Spiritual Blessing** we need a **Committed Attitude** to:  
God's Way – God's Word – Preaching the Gospel of God – Teaching the Word of God – Exercise of Prayer*

## **2 CHRIST HAD AN ATTITUDE OF COMPASSION**

The **meaning** of the word **Compassion in Scripture** –  
Is to be moved **inwardly** - with both the **mind** – the **heart** – the **affections**.  
It is an **Exercise** of the soul

**An inner being** experience – To yearn **inwardly** with *mercy – affection – empathy - pity.*

One **phrase** used, to **express** the **ministry** of the Lord Jesus, is **that** He was: *"Moved with compassion"*

It **means** to be **moved** in the **inner organs**

A **modern** similar **expression** is when we say *"From the bottom of my heart"*

Biblical **compassion** is *"Sympathy inextricably linked with a Sincere Desire to help"*

Here is one of the **vital keys** to the **true meaning** of the **compassion** of **Christ**

Like **Love** it is a **working Fruit!**

In **considering** the attitude of **Christ in His Compassion** we **must view** it **first** as a:

**Characteristic** of the **Triune God!**

**Compassion** is of the **Divine Essence** of **God** –

God is **Holy** - God is **Love** - God is **Compassionate** by nature –

*"But thou, O Lord, [art] a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth."*  
*Psalms 86:15*

It is a **characteristic** of **God's Sovereign Grace** –

*"I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."* *Romans 9:15*

This **Compassion** was then **perfectly manifest** in the **Testimony** and **Attitude** of **Jesus Christ** as a **Man**

The compassionate care of Christ, was **beautifully** prophesied in Isaiah, and **confirmed** as of Christ by Matthew  
*“1 ¶ Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, [in whom] my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. 2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. 4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.” Isaiah 42:1-5*

God the Father **delighted** in His Son, as a **servant** who did not **strive**, **shout** or bring **attention** to **Himself**  
His **Servant** who had compassion on the **weak**, the **hurting**, the **bruised**, those **feeling** at the end of all things  
His **Servant** who served in meekness & humility with compassionate care to **restore**, **transform**, bring **life & hope**  
His **Servant** who **faithfully pressed on** to the end of His ministry, not **discouraged**, but **intent** on His Father's will  
It was this same **attitude** of **compassionate meekness** and **faithfulness** that the Apostle Paul **directs** us too -  
This for the **purpose** of both **repentance** and **restoration**

*“24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all [men], apt to teach, patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And [that] they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.” 2Timothy 2:20-26*

*To be **spiritually fruitful** having the **attitude** of Christ **requires** that we **walk in the Spirit crucifying the flesh**  
For the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance:  
against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*

*This is a **daily exercise** for us to be **engaged** in so that in **putting off the flesh** we may **put on the right attitude**  
“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;” Col 3:12*

## Some Aspects of the Compassionate Attitude of Jesus Christ the Lord

### 1- Christ's Compassion for Sinners

If we are to **follow** the example of Christ then our **attitude** to the **unsaved** and lost will be one of **compassion**  
Christ was able to show **compassion** and **concern** for the **lost**, without one iota of **compromise** to **truth**  
However, it was this **attitude** of Christ to sinners, that drew the most **criticism**, from the religious leaders  
He was **known** and **criticised** by them, as a **friend** of publicans and sinners because of His **witness** to them  
How can we **measure** this **accusation**, with the **truth** of His **Perfection** and **Holiness**?

The **compassion** and **contact** of Christ with **sinners**, was never to **compromise** with them in their sin  
But rather it was for the **purpose** of bringing them to **salvation** from their **sins**, through the **Gospel of God**  
His attitude of **compassion**, His **contact** was in the **interests** of the **Gospel of Salvation** through Him, to them  
Much of the **ministry** of Christ on earth **evidenced** this perfect attitude of **compassionate** concern to **sinners**

Our own ministry will be greatly **enhanced** and **helped** through the **development** of a **compassionate attitude**  
This involves a **separation** from the **curse** of a self righteous spirit in our ministry to the unsaved & backslidden  
**Compassion** in our **attitude** to the plight of unsaved sinners is **developed** as we contemplate God's grace to us  
**Appreciating** grace in our own lives will then bring forth the **fruit** of **compassion** to those **needing** God's grace  
Another way in which a compassionate **attitude** is developed, is by an **increasing** hatred of sin  
**Hatred** of sin **increases** as we **consider** its:

**Damage** done to sinners – dangerous **deceit** – the eternal **consequences** of un-forgiven sin to the **unsaved**  
Without an **attitude** of **compassion** towards **sinners**, our ministry will lack **care** – **commitment** – **courage** -

The **compassionate attitude** of Christ in **reaching** out with the Gospel to sinners -  
**Resulted** in Him being described as the **friend** of **sinners**

An **attitude** of Compassion for the **unsaved** and the **needy**, is one of the most heart searching questions today  
How do we **extend compassion** to the needy?  
Attending to the **needs** of the unsaved, by **embracing** worldliness to **reach** them shows a lack of **real concern**  
It is actually a **deceitful attitude** of compassion, towards the **unsaved**, because it is saying sin is not a **problem**  
In doing so we **undermine**, rather than **promote** the Gospel – We **replace** it with **another** gospel  
God's Way is to have an **attitude** of **compassion**, evidenced, by **preaching** God's Gospel in **word & action**

## 2- Christ's Compassion for the Sick and for the Needy

**Healed** them – **Fed** them – **Preached** to them Gospel in **Word** – **Action**

Isaiah had **prophesied** that the Messiah would be **strength** to the **needy** in his **distress**

**Interestingly** on one occasion, it is stated **particularly**, of our Lord **“standing still”** for a **specific purpose**

This to **intervene** in the **life** of blind Bartimeaus both to **heal** and to **save**

**“And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.” Mark 10:49**

The Son of God the Creator of the Universe **stood still** – For He had a **heart** of **compassion** – **Comfort!!!**

Bartimeaus was **crying out** for **mercy** – The crowd **around** the Lord **told him** to be **quiet**

But the Lord of **Compassion**, **commanded** he be **brought** to Him, that He might **show him mercy**

An **attitude** of **compassion** in us will result in the **practical** outworking of the Gospel to the needy

If the Son of God stood still and **interrupted** His **schedule**, to show mercy to the needy

How much should we be **willing**, to take **time out** to extend care to the needy.

Compassion to the needy, comes as we **stop like the Lord Jesus** taking **time** to consider the cry of the needy

So often our lives are so **busy** we do not **have time** even to hear the cry of the needy



### 3- Christ's Compassion for Children

You will be **aware** of the time, when the disciples **assumed** the Lord would not want to be **bothered** by children

On this **occasion** the disciples made a **serious error** of **judgment** in **underestimating** Christ's **compassion**

*"13 ¶ And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and [his] disciples rebuked those that brought [them]. 14 But when Jesus saw [it], he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. 15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. 16 And he took them up in his arms, put [his] hands upon them, and blessed them." Mark 10:10-16*

One of the ways we reflect the **compassionate attitude** of Christ, is through the ministry to the children

To reject this ministry as **unimportant**, is to have the **attitude** of the disciples

Notice here how seriously Christ **rebuked** the disciples, for such an **attitude** of rejection of the children

This means the Lord will be greatly **displeased** with our **Church** our **Leadership** if our **attitude** is **hardened**

To have the **attitude** of Christ, is to have **compassion** for the children

The Lord taught us that to have an **attitude** of **compassion**, for the children reminds us of **conversion**

We **receive** the kingdom as a little child, without this **attitude** of mind there can be no **entrance**

Therefore to value **conversion** and its nature, will mean our **attitude** to the **children** will be **compassionate**

### 4- Christ's Compassion on all those whom come to Him in prayer

The **understanding compassion** of Christ, forms the **encouragement**, to come boldly to the throne of grace

It is the **inspiration**, to hold fast our **profession** of faith, in the midst of trial and temptation

In the letter to the Hebrews, we are **reminded** of this:

*14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:10-16*

The compassionate understanding **intercessory ministry**, of our great High priest in Heaven -

Sets the **perfect example**, for our own **lesser intercessory** prayer ministry

To **intercede** faithfully, requires **compassionate understanding** of the person, or persons being **interceded** for

The Apostle Paul describes this **compassionate attitude**, to be **praying** as if **chained** with those in prison

*"Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; [and] them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body." Heb 13:3*

The **saving** knowledge by faith that we have in Heaven a **merciful understanding** High Priest interceding for us

Will bring a compassionate **interceding attitude** in prayer for others both for the **unsaved** and the **saved** that suffer

### 3 CHRIST HAD AN ATTITUDE OF COURAGE

#### 1- Christ Spoke the Truth - Courageously and Faithfully to the religious leaders of His day

Consider just one **example** of this to **show** that at times the Lord used very **strong language** to make a point  
*“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness.” Matthew 23:27*

Christ was **rejected** by them for so doing and **eventually** crucified, yet **knowing** the outcome He still **spoke**  
If we are to **follow** the example of Christ there will be times when we will need to **stand** for the **truth courageously**  
To be Christ-like is to stand **firmly** against *worldliness – hypocrisy – idolatry – compromise* in Christian Life

Notice also on one occasion the Apostle Paul did not hold back in **courageously confronting** the Apostle Peter  
The Apostle had fallen into the **snare** of **compromising** the **liberty** of the Gospel with the Jewish **converts**  
We read the Apostle Paul **withstood** him face to face **boldly** and **courageously** for the **sake** of the truth  
Yet later though we **read** of the Apostle Peter making **reference** in his second letter to our **beloved** brother Paul  
The Apostles **uniting governing factor** was not **themselves** but their **committed attitude** to the **truth** of God.  
We see this again in the **disagreement** with Paul and Barnabas over the **suitability** of Mark  
Sometime later Paul **requests** Timothy to bring Mark with him, **believing** he would now be **useful** to him.  
**A committed attitude to Truth and evident transforming fruit** in Mark were the **factors** in Paul’s **change** of heart.

#### 2- Christ demonstrated an attitude of Courage in Cleansing the Temple for the Honour of His Father!

*“And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought; 46 Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves. 47 And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him, 48 And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear him.” Lk 19:45-48*

Here again we can see **evidence** of the **fact** that the Lord Jesus Christ **resisted** error and worldliness **boldly**  
He was not prepared to **teach** in the midst of noise in an **atmosphere** of **worldliness** in the Temple  
Did His actions for the **glory** of God in **worship** have the **effect** of driving the **people** away?  
No as a **result** the people were very **attentive** to **hear** The Lord, who **acted** so **courageously** for the **Truth**

The Apostles followed this attitude of **boldness** in the face of **opposition** and **persecution**  
On one occasion we read in **Acts 4** **Peter** and **John** had been **preaching** the Gospel **boldly** to the people  
As a result about five thousand were **converted** this led on to **both** the apostles being **bound overnight**  
Next morning before the High Priest, Peter **courageously proclaims** the **gospel truth** of the Lord Jesus Christ  
Those **witnessing** these words and the **courageous attitude** of Peter and John **concluded**  
These so called **unlearned** and **ignorant** men must have got their **boldness** because of their **union** with Jesus  
Following the example of their Lord, Peter & John **understood** their was a **time** for **boldness** in proclamation  
*One of the **greatest** helps to courage in our own ministry is to **understand** we **serve** for the **glory** of God*  
*The fear of man brings a **snare** – Whereas the **fear** of the Lord is the **beginning** of wisdom*  
*The example of Christ shows us that when the honour of the Lord’s name is undermined **there is a time to stand***  
*Today standing for **truth** and **warning** is sometimes **described** as **lacking the Spirit of Christ** – **Lacking love***  
*Whereas when we consider the example of Christ we see a courageous attitude in opposing error for God’s glory*

If we constantly keep in mind in our **ministry** the **glory of God** and the **honour of His Name** like Christ  
Opposition & persecution will **inevitably** come.

But in **response** to this **persecution** an **attitude of courage** will **prevail** as we are **strengthened** by God

## **CONCLUSION**

The vital **question** when **assessing** our **labours** for the **Lord** is:

*“Will our work, be merely an outwardly impressive structure, or a genuine, spiritual accomplishment?”*

We have considered **three** aspects to the **attitude** of Jesus Christ that we are **called** to **follow**

## **COMMITMENT – COMPASSION - COURAGE**

These attitudes are **essential** to the **leadership** ministry if we are to be **used** in the **building** of **true** Churches

For the Church is **not** the **building** or the **structure** or the **organisation**.

The Church is the **body** of born again **spiritually minded** Christ centred people

Sinners, who have been **saved** by **grace** and **are given** a desire to **serve** the Lord.

To **walk** in the way of **godliness**, **submitting** to the Word of God, **seeking** the **glory** of **God**.