



sermon 
SNAPSHOTS

God's
Guardrails:

Attitudes

Several years ago, there was a convention for barbers that was held in downtown Chicago. Several barbers wanted to show the good that they could do to the community. They found a drunk who was sleeping in an alley behind the hotel where the convention was held. Several barbers brought him in—they bathed him, gave him a nice haircut, manicured his nails, and bought him a new suit. Photographers took pictures for the local newspaper. The manager of the hotel was so impressed that he offered the man a job. The next day, no one could find him. They searched and searched for him. They found him asleep in the alley behind the hotel. He had sold his suit for a cheap bottle of wine and was right back where he started.

The barbers had cleaned him up on the outside, but they failed to change his insides. Until the inside is changed, a person will always remain the way he is. The focus of the gospels is upon changing us—from the inside out—God uses words like:

- **Newness of life (Rom 6:4)**
- **New self (Ephesians 4:24)**
- **Christ lives in me (Galatians 2:20)**

Years ago when I was in college, I used to walk to church services. A couple of neighborhood dogs used to follow me. They'd walk right with me and wait on the front steps until I came out. Everyone thought they were my dogs. They weren't. One Sunday, the dogs came inside and sat in the aisle next to me. A couple of men asked me to take my dogs outside. I tried to explain that they weren't my dogs. As soon as I took them out, they snuck back in. This happened for several weeks. One Sunday they sat on the floor in the back for the worship. Did it do them any good? No. They weren't changed—they were dogs. They hadn't changed on the inside.

This morning we conclude our series we have been doing on Guardrails. It's been a great series. James will have the series in our CD rack very soon. We think that this will be a great series to pass along to others.

A. Guardrails—we see them everywhere.

They are not pretty but they serve a very important function. They are placed on bridges, curves and near cliffs. They keep us from danger. Hitting a guardrail will damage your car—but that is better than going off a cliff. The purpose is to keep you from serious injury.

B. God also has guardrails—they are His word

God wants to keep us from ruining our life...those who have ignored guardrails have crashed marriages, ruined their finances, destroyed their reputations and have injured many people—emotionally, physically, and spiritually

When our conscience runs into God's guardrails—it causes guilt. That guilt will make us have a course correction...it is not meant to destroy us but to keep us from destroying ourselves. God knows what is best for us.

Proverbs 27:12 has been the theme passage in this series.

The prudent sees danger...The prudent has their eyes open...The prudent is watching... The prudent is careful

C. Today, we look at “Guardrails around attitudes”

- Attitudes are the way we are on the inside, it's the way we see things, it's how we feel about things

Emerson: “What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compare to what lies within us” - attitude

Continued...

1. God is concerned with your attitude (Luke 10:27)

2 Corinthians 9:7 cheerfulness; Colossians 3:16 thankfulness; 1 Peter 2:2 longing; James 5:16 passionate; Hebrews 13:17 submissive—these are all attitudes!

- 1 Corinthians 10:10- grumbling and complaining is an attitude
- How we get about doing things...how committed we are...how we respect others...how we view others—these are all determined by our attitudes
- We have an attitude about sin...about God...about His word...about worship. Every one of us has an attitude...good, healthy and positive or it can be negative, toxic and warped. See Also Philippians 2:4, Romans 12:3, Luke 18:9, 2 Galatians 5:19-21

2. Your attitude is the lens of your life (Proverbs 23:7)

Like a camera lens, it's how we see things. This lens can be right on, fuzzy & blurry (Numbers 14:1-4)

- It reveals the real you: kindness, prejudice, helpful, hurtful. What comes out is what we really are. It shows others what is important to you.
- (A Golfer will clean his clubs...one who loves his car will keep it spotless, there's differences in the way a room is considered clean by mom and her teenager)
- It is the greatest factor in determining success or failure in all you do.
- For example, a shoe salesman in Africa: one guy wanted to be sent home because no one wore shoes... the other guy wanted more help because no one wore shoes.
- It affects all of your relationships, especially with God (Psalm 95:3)

3. Your attitude is affected by outside influences

An advisor suggested to Lincoln a certain person for a cabinet position. Lincoln said that he didn't like the man's face. The advisor complained, "He can't help the way he looks." Lincoln responded, "Every man over 40 is responsible for his face."

- Philippians 4:8
- What does this say about our choice of movies, books, friends—influencers?

4. Your attitude is always your choice - Romans 12:16

5. There are five factors that can crash your attitude.

Proverbs 4:23 (KJV) –(Fear, Discouragement, Sin, Negativism, Problems)

God's Guardrail: Learn from Jesus

- Matthew 11:28-20 Come and learn from Me

- This is an invitation for rest to those who are tired and weary. Weary on the inside and burdened on the outside.

The Humble Jesus

He served others who could do nothing for Him; he allowed people to interrupt Him; He allowed people to question Him; He allowed people to touch Him, to follow Him...when invited, He went; when asked, He answered.

- Humility is not low self-esteem...it is not putting self-down...it cannot be turned on or off...it is not being poor, nor simply being tolerant...it is not silence
- Comes from the Greek word Humus—earth...lowly instead of highly
- Humbleness moves God (James 4:6-10), Luke 9:23 says to be void of self...
- The opposite of humility is pride. God hates that. We hate that.
- Jesus gives you rest on the inside, from burdens, from frustrations

Continued...

Attitude guardrails:

- Dump the junk that spoils a good attitude (Ephesians 4:25-31)
 - Start thinking and speaking and doing positively (Ephesians 4:32; Proverbs 31:25) 1 Thessalonians 5:11
 - No matter what happens, look for good (2 Corinthians 4:7-10)
 - Fix your attention to Jesus (Hebrews 12:2; Psalm 34:3)
- Imitate God (Ephesians 5:1); please God (Ephesians 5:10)

Two stone masons were asked what they were building. First guy said a wall. The second man said a wall to the palace for the king. Make your perspective a positive one.

- Develop a heart that makes you a team player (Romans 12 & Philippians 4)

It's not just about you...

The heart of a servant—the eyes of a servant—the hands of a servant

Isaiah said, “Here am I, send me...” - Attitude!

Roger Shouse

The Guardrail lessons are a series of sermons preached and edited into Snapshot form. Sermon Snapshots are designed to improve your personal study life and presentation of spiritual topics to friends & neighbors in a simple and exciting manner! Complete the 4 part series from Roger Shouse with these other snapshots & sermons available for download on our website or lobby!

Guardrails Around:

Purity – Finance - Relationships

Times of Service

Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Bible Study: 5pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7pm

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