

The Story of Jerry: **Attitude is Everything!**

Jerry was the kind of guy you love to hate. He was always in a good mood and always had something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I'd be twins!"

He was a unique manager because he had several waiters who had followed him around from restaurant to restaurant. The reason waiters followed Jerry was because of his ATTITUDE. He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Jerry was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation. Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Jerry and asked, "I don't get it! You can't be positive all of the time! How do you do it?"

Jerry replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, Jerry, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood, or you can choose to be in a bad mood. **I choose to be in a good mood!** Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. **I choose to learn from it.** Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life and how they might learn from it. **I choose the positive side of life.**

Yea, right, but it's not that easy," I protested.

"Yes it is!" Jerry replied, **Life is all about choices.** When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to be in a good or a bad mood. **The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life!**

I **reflected on what Jerry said**... Soon thereafter, I left the restaurant industry to start my own business. I lost touch with Jerry, but often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that Jerry did something you should never do in a restaurant business. He left the backdoor open one morning and was held up at gunpoint by three armed robbers. While trying to open the safe, his hand, shaking from nervousness slipped off the combination. The robbers panicked and shot him! Luckily, Jerry was found relatively quickly and rushed to the local trauma center. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Jerry was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body. I saw Jerry about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Wanna see my scars?"

I declined, to see his wounds, but I did ask him what went through his mind as the robber took place?

"The first thing I thought...I should have locked the back door," Jerry replied. Then, as I lay on the floor, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live, or I could choose to die. **I chose to live!**"

Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked.

Jerry continued, "The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they rolled me into the emergency room, I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses. I got really scared! I read, 'He's a dead man!' in their eyes. I knew I needed to take action"

"What did you do?" I asked.

"Well, there was this nurse shouting questions at me," said Jerry. She asked if I was allergic to anything? "Yes", I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath amid the pain and yelled "Bullets"! Over their laughter, I told them: "I am choosing to live. Operated me as if I am alive, not dead!" Jerry lived thanks to the skills of his doctors, but also because of **his amazing attitude.** I learned from him that we have the choice every day to live fully.

Attitude, after all, is everything!

Source: Charles Swindoll (Paraphrased by) Doug Barr, Saddleback College.