

Pastor John Hicks  
Sour Milk.

There are times when I really enjoy the juice of the cow. For me, there is nothing much better than having a nice ice cold glass of milk with a warm chocolate chip cookie or a rich piece of cake.

Some years ago, before I was married, I had just taken a batch of cookies out of the oven and popped one in my mouth. I reached in the refrigerator and took out the jug of milk and took a couple of gulps to help wash it down. (I told you it was before I got married!) What happened next was not the ecstasy that I had imagined. The cookie experience and all the good that went along with it was ruined.

I learned a lesson that day: There is a high price that is paid for leaving the milk out of the refrigerator too long. Sweet milk turns sour from being warm too long. Sour milk can ruin a good thing.

Sweet dispositions can turn sour for the same reason. If we let aggravations or irritations simmer too long without giving them a period of time for cooling off, we can stew ourselves into a bad attitude. A bad attitude can ruin a good thing.

In the tenth chapter of the Gospel of Luke we find a classic example of the sweet becoming sour. Martha invited Jesus and the disciples to dinner. While Martha was busy doing all of the things that needed to be done, her sister was sitting down listening to Jesus teach. This irked Martha. What had started out to be an attitude of joy and service for someone special quickly curdled. Martha lost perspective and her focus turned more towards herself and her situation. With time, she developed an attitude, and her attitude spoiled the gift she was offering.

A bad attitude can ruin a good thing. Satan knows that. Satan uses that. Notice that he didn't take Martha out of the kitchen; he took away her purpose in the kitchen. The adversary won't turn you against the church; he will turn you toward yourself in the church. He won't take you away from your work; he'll take away your joy in your work.

There is a life-lesson here for us to embrace. To keep an attitude from souring, treat it like you would a cup of milk: Keep it cool and check it regularly to make sure it's good.

“Pleasant words (and attitudes) are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”