

## The Golden Rule; Matthew 7:7-12

### I. The Golden Rule

- A. The principle of treating others as you wish to be treated
- B. It appears in some form (positive, negative, or empathetic) in every religion and ethical tradition
  - 1. Treat others as you want to be treated (positive)
  - 2. Do not treat others in a way that you would not want to be treated (negative)
  - 3. What you wish upon others, you wish upon yourself (empathetic)
- C. This is not passive, like reaping and sowing, or karma, or what comes around goes around
- D. This is active, wanting you to behave in a certain manner
- E. Verse 12 begins with “So” which makes the statement dependent on what was said before

### II. Ask, Seek, Knock

- A. Matthew 7:7–8 (ESV); <sup>7</sup> “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.
- B. We usually use these verses when referring to God’s availability to the alienated sinner
  - 1. Those who are looking for the salvation of God will find it
  - 2. Ask for God’s salvation and it will be given, seek and find it, knock and the door will be opened
- C. While there may be a lot of truth in those statements, that is not the context that we find these verses
  - 1. Jesus just finished talking about “pearls before swine” in verse 6
  - 2. “lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you” verse 6b
  - 3. It would seem that this is all about the resources needed to serve in God’s kingdom
  - 4. And, that God wants to give us what we need to be His servant!
  - 5. Verses 7–11 may also link back with the rest of the sermon in that they show people how to get the help they need to obey all that Jesus has previously commanded. <sup>1</sup>
- D. Ask, seek, knock is about us receiving from the Father what we need to be His servants
- E. Mark 9:35 (ESV); And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “if anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”
- F. We are always asking for God to intervene on behalf of those who are sick or shut-in (please do not stop)
  - 1. Maybe we should include asking for things that will help us spread the Gospel of His Son to those who are hurting around us
  - 2. Maybe we should be actively seeking resources that we can use for the sole purpose of becoming more like His Son, the Christ.
- G. We must ask, seek, and knock — petitioning God with an expectant attitude that He will give us what we need to grow and mature as servants in His Kingdom

### III. Give Good Gifts

- A. Matthew 7:9–11 (ESV); <sup>9</sup> Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

---

<sup>1</sup> Craig Blomberg, Matthew, vol. 22, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 129.

- B. The idea of “giving” is the key throughout this text — it appears 5 times
  - 1. Three times in the form of granting a request (verses 7 and 11)
  - 2. Two times in the form of handing something to someone (verses 9 and 10)
  - 3. Luke gives us an example in the person of the Holy Spirit
  - 4. Luke 11:13 (ESV); If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”
  - 5. We give to our children
    - a) All they need to live (food, clothing, a home, etc.)
    - b) All they need to become successful (school, vocational training, experience, etc.)
- C. God has promised to give us all we need to become a successful Christians
  - 1. He has given us gifts
  - 2. Ephesians 4:11–16 (ESV); <sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.
  - 3. I must emphasize that God is the giver of these gifts — we only get them through the Father
  - 4. Romans 12:6–7 (ESV); <sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;
  - 5. And the reason for these gifts is for us to grow, to mature, to become more like His son, Jesus
  - 6. Romans 8:28–29 (ESV); <sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
- D. We share these gifts with those around us so that they also may know the love of an All Powerful, All Knowing, All Encompassing God
- E. 1 Timothy 2:3–6 (ESV); <sup>3</sup> This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

#### IV. The Golden Rule

- A. Matthew 7:12 (ESV); “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
- B. Matthew 22:37–40 (ESV); <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”
- C. Jesus links this teaching on how we treat those around us to the two primary laws of God — Love Him and love others

D. "Do also to them"

1. We are to act as ambassadors for the Almighty and serve others (on His behalf)
2. We do not wait for others to act and we respond
3. "Whatever you wish"
4. We take the good gifts that the Loving Father gave us and we shower them (use them) on all those around us

V. Your Gifts

- A. What are you doing with what God has given you?
- B. Are you a servant in the Kingdom?
- C. Are you giving your gifts to others?