

JESUS' GOLDEN RULE

A. Introduction.

- ▶ Jesus's teaching in the Sermon on the Mount "fulfills" plēroō the Law and the Prophets (5:17), while the Golden Rule, which he instituted "sums up" the Law and the Prophets (7:12).

B. Setting.

- ▶ In contrast to Confucianism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, or even the Hillel, Jesus was the first to truly state the Golden Rule in a positive nuance.
- ▶ "Treat others as you want to be treated" the same way in two ways.

1. Do not judge (vv.1-6)

- a) Judge not, but, be discerning of right and wrong (vv.1-2).

- ▶ To overcome tendency to judge others, consider these two things.

- b) Jesus helps us "do **not** judge" with 2 hyperbolic questions:

(1) v.3.

(2) v.4.

- **Explanation**

- ▶ The passage today hinges on the key verse in verse 12 "*do to others what you would have them do to you.*"

- **Explanation**

- ▶ The golden rule as uttered by Jesus is derived from **Leviticus 19:18**, which is regarded as the great positive commandment "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*" (clearly stated in Matthew 22:29).

- ❖ **Lesson 1:**

- ▶ Do not be like a judge in relationship to others.

- **Talk:**

- 1) God is the judge (Ps.75:7: Isa.33:22)
- 2) God sees the whole picture and the hidden motives.

- ▶ scrutinizing other people's small issues, while ignoring our own very large issues.
- ▶ devote ourselves to help others rather than dealing with our own baggage.

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- ▶ v.5: To grow in holiness with fewer planks and specks all around.
- ▶ v.6: Exercising discernment.

2. Ask, Seek, Knock from the Answering Father (vv.7-11)

- a) vv.7-8: present imperative *verbs*: keep asking, seeking, knocking.

- b) vv.9-11: the **basis** that Jesus makes this promise in verses 7-8.

3. Golden Rule (v.12).

- ▶ Practice the Golden Rule "in everything," involves faithful persistence.

C. Conclusion.

- ❖ **Lesson 2:**

- ▶ Jesus's admonitions should lead us to deeper self-examination and confession.

- **Explanation**

- ▶ Each *verb* describes practical faith in God.
- ▶ Jesus makes this promise on the basis of our relationship with our Father in heaven who knows to give good gifts to his children.

- ❖ **Lesson 3:**

- (1) Jesus uses a rabbinical argument (*a fortiori*) in v.11: from **the lesser to the greater**: a lesson of God's assurance to us.
- (2) The connection between v.7 and 6:33 shows how God's promises come into reality when we put them into practice out of faith.

- ❖ **Lesson 4:**

- ▶ The embodiment of the Golden Rule is done on the basis of God's grace, the surpassing righteousness of Christ that's given to us: we live to love God and to love our neighbor.

- Practice Jesus' Golden Rule of the kingdom in our church, community, home and workplace