

THE GOLDEN RULE

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the Golden Rule and how it applies to us.
2. Mt. 7:12 **"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."** Lk. 6:31 **"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."** Mt 7:12 NKJV **"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."**
3. Sermon on the Mount compared to Constitution
 - a. Might be called the constitution of new covenant with Many basic rules of life
 - b. The most important rule or law is Mt. 7:12
4. Sermon on Mount is like the rules for a family
 - a. Every family must have some rules. The church is God's family.
 - b. The most basic and important rule in this family is Mt. 7:12
5. Sermon on the Mount might be compared to the rules of government
 - a. Every government must have rules and regulations for its citizens to follow.
 - b. The church is the kingdom of God, It must have rules and regulations
 - c. The most important rule for this government is Mt. 7:12
6. This verse is sometimes re-worded "Do unto others as ye would have them do unto you."
 - a. Many other great leaders have tried to make a similar statement
 - (1) Hillel [Jew] "What is hateful to yourself, do to no other; that is the whole law, and the rest is commentary. Go and Learn."
 - (2) Nicocles [Grecian King] - "Do not do to others the things which make you angry when you experience them at the hands of other people"
 - (3) Stoics - "What you do not wish to be done to you, do not do to anyone else.

- b. Many of the World Religions have taught something similar to Golden Rule
 - i. Hindu Religion - "This is the sum of the duty; do naught to others which if done to thee would cause thee pain." = the Mahabharata
 - ii. Buddhist religion - "Hurt not others with that which pains yourself" = Udana - Varga
 - iii. Muslim religion - "No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself"
 - iv. Baha'I - "He should not wish for others that which he doth not wish for himself, nor promise that which he doth not fulfill" = The Book of Certitude
- c. But they are all different!!!
 - i. They are negative and passive while the rule by Jesus is positive and active.
 - ii. The motive in the statement by men is selfish, while that of Jesus looks to the good of others.

7. Notice the Golden Rule as taught by Jesus

Discussion

I. THE TEXT -

Mt.7:12 **"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."**

A. *"Therefore"*

1. This is the last verse of the section in which Jesus is discussing the righteousness of the kingdom
2. V. 12 is a summary of this section
3. It is also a broad summary of the law and the prophets

B. *"All Things"*

1. What I could reasonable expect or rightly expect
2. All areas of life

C. *"Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you,"*

1. What we would like to have men do to us, whether they do that to us or not, we are to keep doing to them.
2. Do unto the other fellow the way we would like him to do unto us, and do it first.
3. Do to others as we, enlightened by the word of God, desirous of doing His will, would desire them to do to us.
4. This law does not require us to do what our fleshly impulses and passions would prompt us to desire one would do to us.

D. *"Do ye even so to them"*

1. Not that you merely refrain from harming him, you are to do him good.
2. It is not that you are not to Rob him, but you are to give to him.
3. What I could rightly or reasonably wish another to do for me, our places being exchanged, is what I must do for him.

E. *"For this is the law and the prophets"*

1. Earlier in the sermon Jesus had said **"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."** Mt. 5:17
2. In this statement is condensed all that is required in the law and the prophets regarding our duty to our fellow man.

3. Paul applies the same principle to the Christian age: Rm. 13:9 "**For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**"

II. OTHER RULES OF CONDUCT

A. VANDAL RULE

1. Dog mentioned in the ancient book of fables by Aesop -- did not care for the feed that had been put out for the cow, but he barked and snapped at the cow to keep her from enjoying it.
2. Vandals who slash tires, break windows, destroy mailboxes are like this -- they do not get any profit from their action.
3. Their satisfaction is in making others miserable.

B. IRON RULE

1. This is the rule that says "Might makes right"
2. What is yours becomes mine, just by taking it.
3. Cain - Gen. 4 lived by this rule - he was full of envy and jealousy and slew his brother Abel.
4. David abused his royal power - he took Bathsheba, wife of Uriah, then he had Uriah murdered.
5. Hitler was a ruler who lived by this rule "might makes right"

6. Many people in our land are living by this iron rule
 - a. Murderers, bank robberies,
 - b. They take whatever they want if they are strong enough.
7. This is just the opposite of the way God wants us to live - they are saying **"What is thine will be mine if I'm strong enough to take it from you."** Mt. 7:12 reads the opposite.

C. SILVER RULE

1. Confucius is said to have stated this rule first: "What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others."
2. "Do nothing to others that you would not have others do to you."
3. This is far ahead of the iron rule, but it is a negative rule
4. It forbids doing any wrong to others, but doesn't require you to do anything good either.
5. The people who live by the silver rule say: I will not hurt you - but neither will I help you.
6. Their philosophy is "Don't get involved"
7. They don't actually rob, or murder but they don't even bother to call the police when they see someone being hurt by others.
8. Their idea would be: "I am not my brother's keeper."
9. This silver rule is a slight improvement over the iron rule but is still not the rule for us.
10. "What is mine will be mine"

D. TREAT OTHERS AS THEY TREAT YOU

1. Many people live by the philosophy, "We will treat others just as they have treated us."
2. This is the way of life that says we only love those who love us. That would mean that if someone hates us then we hate them also.
3. This is just a matter of reacting to the way we are treated.
4. Jesus said: **"For sinners also love those that love them."** Lk. 6:32
5. Jesus teaches us to act properly toward other people regardless of how they treat us. Mt. 5:38-48
 - a. Turn the other cheek
 - b. Go the second mile
 - c. Love your enemies
6. Mt. 7:12 is the best rule

III. APPLYING THE GOLDEN RULE

- A. We are to treat others as we would want to be treated in all situations of life.
 1. This requires us to try to see the other person's viewpoint.
 2. We will ask: What is important to him or her? What is in his best interest?
 3. In applying this rule, the truly loving thing is not always easy.
- B. Examples:
 1. I do not want what I have said to be misquoted. If I practice the golden rule, I will be very careful not to misquote another person. I'll try to represent their position accurately.

2. I would like for others to give me the benefit of the doubt. This means that I must be inclined to believe the best about others. **"Love believeth all things; hopeth all things"** - I Cor. 13:7
3. I would not like for someone to spread slander about me. This means that I will not be a part of spreading slander or malicious stories about other people.
4. I don't like for anyone to embarrass me, or to hurt my feelings, or to make fun of me, or to tell jokes at my expense, or to ridicule me. If I practice the Golden Rule, I will be very careful not to embarrass anyone, or hurt anyone's feelings, or make fun of anyone.
5. I should treat every woman with the same respect I would want other men to give to my wife and daughters.
6. My son should treat every girl with the same respect he would want other boys to show to his sisters and his mother.

C. This makes us our brother's keeper

1. We must not only not want to do him no harm but must want help or to share what we have with those less fortunate than ourselves.
2. This will feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, and visit the sick and imprisoned. This Golden Rule is the Royal Rule of life!
3. Applications in the church:
 - a. Preacher - how would you want to be treated ?
 - b. Song Leader - would you like others to sing with you?
 - c. Bible Class Teacher - what would you want your students to do?
4. If it were followed by all there would be no jails, prisons, or houses of correction - because there would be no crimes committed.

Conclusion

1. Lk. 10:25-37 shows how some people live by certain rules
 - a. Traveler was going on trip
 - b. Thieves - men living by the Iron Rule
 - c. Priest and Levite - living by the Silver Rule
 - d. Good Samaritan - living by the Golden Rule

2. Mt. 7:12 paraphrased - "Do for others what you want them to do for you. This is the teaching of the laws of Moses in a nutshell."

3. Sometimes people say: "If we live by the Golden rule then we will be saved."
 - a. Man has a threefold duty:
 - (1) To himself
 - (2) To his fellow man
 - (3) And To God.
 - b. This Golden Rule does not cover all our behavior and life
 - c. The Golden Rule says nothing about our relationship with God.
 - d. This rule is about our relationship with our fellow man.

4. God requires us to be obedient to Christ's commands in order to be saved from our sins.
 - a. H.B.R.C.B = Salvation
 - b. Then we must live faithfully
 - c. This includes living by the Golden Rule.

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