

SERMON GUIDE

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

Matthew 7:12-14

ALL FOLLOWERS OF JESUS MUST CHOOSE TO SUBMIT TO JESUS OVER SATISFYING SELF.

OUTLINE

Following Jesus means . . .

1. I change the way I am treating others in my life (v. 12).
2. I change the direction I am pursuing for my life (vv. 13-14).

REFLECT

1. Which of “our golden rules” are you prone to follow? Do you do unto others as you ...decide they deserve? ...determine they need? ...feel like doing? ...wait, there is someone else?
2. Meditate on Philippians 2:3–4. How does the example of Jesus in verses 5–11 inform your pursuit of obedience to the golden rule.
3. Are you on the easy path that leads to destruction or the hard path that leads to life?

PRAY

1. Ask God to change your default mindset from being self-centered to being more others-centered. Ask for help to care about others.
2. Pray for friends and family and neighbors who are on the easy way that goes through the wide gate. Pray that they see destruction at the end of the road and choose rather to take the hard, narrow way that leads to life. Pray that God would give you boldness and opportunity to help them know the way of life.

DISCUSS

1. How does the example of Jesus’ life and ministry serve as a model for us as we seek to live out the golden rule?
2. What are some practical habits you can develop to make yourself more others-centered?
3. Why is the path that leads to life hard? How do we remain steadfast through the difficulty?
4. Where is your life inconsistent with Jesus’ call to us in this passage?

