



Mt Sermon Series: Part 33: The Golden Rule, Matthew 7:12

Kent Vincent ~ July 2, 2017

“Therefore, whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

In General: The rule covers much as it *“settles a hundred difficult points.”* J. C. Ryle

In Context: Not a disconnected saying. *‘Therefore’* connects it with what comes before: Therefore, it is connected to and a capstone for the instruction on *‘judgment’*.

In Practice: Revered by many, practiced by few.

In Purpose: *‘for this is the law and the prophets.’*

Matthew 5:17- *‘...I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them.’... 5:20...unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Wrong Views of the Law and Prophets: Apply mechanically/ Rules & Regs/ Negative/ Outward compliance only.

Jesus’ View: to teach us to *‘love one another’*. He calls us to consider how others value their well-being as we do ours.

Example: Exodus 23- *“If you meet your enemy’s ox or his donkey going astray, you shall bring it back to him...”*

Why so hard? The Core of the Problem: My little *'self'*.

Application:

First- **Love God.** That love humbles me, so I stop thinking of my *'self'*.
That love causes me to see others as I am, a sinner.
That love makes me recognize that God never gives me what I deserve.

Recap:

Our subject is *'judgment'*, a very difficult, yet necessary part of life.
To judge righteously, we must first judge ourselves (*'log' and 'splinter'*).
This is balanced with the danger of lack of discrimination (*'dogs' and 'hogs'*).
From where does the discernment and grace to judge come? *'Ask and it shall be given you...'*
This is all capped off with the comprehensive, positive and perfect rule:

Think: **What response would I want if I was her?**

Do: **Exactly that.**

Why?: **This is the sum and spirit of *'the law and the prophets'*.**