The Golden Rule

Joshua Creel · Matthew 7:7–12

INTRODUCTION

- In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the law and the prophets.
- I think when you look closely, you'll see some cohesion of thought there. But when you come to verse 12, he makes it very clear.

1 Keep Asking, Keep Seeking, Keep Knocking

Matthew 7:7–8

- Ask and it'll be given to you. Seek and you will find.
- This is not a one time action that you ask once, you knock once, you seek one time, but no, you are habitually, perpetually asking, seeking, and knocking.
- Those who are hungering and thirsting for righteousness. Those who are seeking after God with their whole heart, they're going to be heard.
- You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart.

2 How Much of Our Prayers Are Asking for Holiness?

- Blessed are the poor in spirit. Those who recognize that in a spiritual sense, they have nothing, and they are utterly dependent on God and what he can provide for them.
- How much of our prayers are asking for holiness? How often in our prayers are we saying to God, help me to truly be poor in spirit?
- God help me to rid my heart of anger and hatred and lust. God help me to even love those who have made themselves my enemy.
- Keep asking. Keep seeking. Keep knocking. And God says, you're going to find it.

3 Your Father Knows How to Give Good Gifts

Matthew 7:9–11; Isaiah 49:15; Ephesians 1:3

- If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask him.
- The truly good things we give to our children are not necessarily the things that they ask for.
- Maybe that's because God knows that many of us, if not most of us, we don't handle prosperity well.
- You and I are wealthy beyond our wildest imaginations because of all the things that God has now given to us in Christ.

4 Treat Others How You Want Your God to Treat You

Matthew 7:1–2

- The main thrust of his idea in this verse is not simply you treat others how you want other people to treat you treat others how you want your God to treat you.
- The forgiveness of my God hinges on whether or not I am going to forgive others as well.
- For in the way you judge, you'll be judged, and by your standard of measure, it'll be measured to you.
- And if you want your God to be merciful to you, then you be merciful to others.

5 You Have to Be Proactive in Treating Others

- So we kind of turn the golden rule into just don't do any harm, leave people alone, they're going to be fine.
- When God does leave alone those who want nothing to do with him. We have a word for that. It's hell.
- We want God to bless us, not simply to refrain from cursing us.
- The golden rule then comes around to saying is you have to be proactive in how you're treating others.

6 For This Is the Law and the Prophets

Matthew 22:37–40; Matthew 7:12

- Treat others as you would have them to treat you. For this is the law and the prophets.
- And therefore, if we love this God, we are to love each other.
- So much of our devotion to God is actually seen in our devotion to each other.
- The being devoted to one another, the encouraging one another, the being at peace with one another, the serving and washing each other's feet. That's where our love for God is seen.

THE CHALLENGE

Would you respond to the gospel? Believing in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, repenting of your wrongs, being baptized to have your sins forgiven.

MY NOTES