

Wednesday Refuel "The Golden Rule" Matthew 7:12-14

Matthew 7:12 **Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.**

**Observation:** **Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.**

**Interpretation:**

**Deuteronomy 10:12-13** "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God **require of you**, but to **fear the LORD your God**, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?

**Romans 13:8-10** Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," "YOU SHALL NOT MURDER," "YOU SHALL NOT STEAL," "YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS," "YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

**Galatians 5:14** For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

- The Golden rule is probably the most well known verse Jesus ever said!
- **This single verse is going to sum up everything Jesus has been teaching up to this point.**
- The immediate connection of verse 12 with the preceding verses seems to be this:
- Since our Father is a giver of good things to us, we should imitate Him in showing kindness to others.
- The way to test whether an action is valuable to others is whether we would want to receive it ourselves. BBC
- The golden rule reveals the heart of God, and it shows us how God wants us to live and act.

### **INTERESTING FACT:**

The “Golden Rule” had been expressed in negative terms at least one hundred years before Jesus said it by the Rabbi Hillel.

In fact many religions use this verse negatively:

- "Don't do to others what you don't want done to you."
- Under the negative form of the rule, the goats of [Mat 25:31-46](#) would be found “not guilty.” Yet under the positive form of the Golden Rule – Jesus’ form – they are indeed found guilty.
- By stating it **positively**, Jesus made it way way more significant.
- **It is not very hard to refrain from harming others;**
- **It is much more difficult to take the initiative in doing something good for them.**
- The Golden Rule, as Jesus formulated it, is the foundation of active goodness and mercy—the kind of love God shows to us every day. LAN

The golden rule is a one sentence statement that tells **everyone** how we should live and behave.

The golden rule is concerned with **true love** and with **positive, active behavior**.

It is more than not doing wrong (lying, stealing, cheating).

It is more than just doing good (helping, caring, giving).

It is looking, searching, and seeking for ways to do the good that you want others to do to you.

It is seeking ways to treat others just as you want them to treat you.<sup>1</sup>

### **SIDE NOTE:**

The golden rule makes all men equal.

All people—the wealthy, famous, and powerful as well as the poor, unknown, and unimportant—all are to treat each other just as they would wish to be treated<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Leadership Ministries Worldwide. (2004). [The Gospel according to Matthew: Chapters 1:1–16:12](#) (Vol. 1, p. 155). Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide.

<sup>2</sup> Leadership Ministries Worldwide. (2004). [The Gospel according to Matthew: Chapters 1:1–16:12](#) (Vol. 1, p. 156). Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide.

**Lets look at the last part of this verse: [for this is the Law and the Prophets.](#)**

Mat 22:34 But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they **gathered together.**

Mat 22:35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, **testing Him**, and saying,

Mat 22:36 "**Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?**"

Mat 22:37 Jesus said to him, '**YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.**'

Mat 22:38 **This is the first and great commandment.**

Mat 22:39 **And the second is like it: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'**

Mat 22:40 **On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.**"

**In verses 37, 38**

- **Jesus summarized man's obligation to God as the first and great commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."** Mark's Gospel adds the phrase, "**and with all your strength**" (Mark 12:30).

**In verses 39,40**

- Jesus then adds that man's second responsibility is to love his neighbor as himself.
- This has been the design since Moses, the prophets, now Jesus, the apostles and now to us."
- We should think of how very much we do love ourselves, of how much of our activity centers around the care and comfort of ourself.
- Then we should try to imagine what it would be like if we showered that love on our neighbors.
- **A huge point has to be made.**
- **This type of behavior is not natural; it is supernatural. Only those who have been born again can do it, and then only by allowing Christ to do it through them.**
  
- Only a righteous person is able to practice this rule and thereby demonstrate the spiritual change that has come about in his life.
- An individual who is able to live this kind of life **obviously possesses** the righteousness Jesus demanded here.
- **Such a person's righteous acts do not save him, but because he has been delivered he is able to demonstrate true righteousness toward others.** BKC

**Application:**

The verse is the application!!!!

Matthew 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

Matthew 7:14 Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

#### Observation:

Matthew 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

Matthew 7:14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

#### Interpretation:

As we begin to look at this here there are clearly two gates, one wide and one narrow.

I want to talk briefly about the narrow gate for now.

The way to eternal life is difficult and very few will find it.

The way is Jesus Christ. If a person wishes eternal life, he has to come to God through Jesus Christ according to **John. 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through Me.** **Act 4:12** Nor is there **salvation** in any other, for there is **no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**"

The wide gate is the world. The narrow gate is the Kingdom of Heaven.

#### Lets talk about the wide gate:

- The wide gate is wide open.
- There is no obstruction to keep you from entering the wide gate.
- Nothing keeps a person from entering it.
- It is as if a person naturally stands before its wide open doors.
- Plenty of people can enter and are entering its wide doors at any given time.
- A person has plenty of company when entering the wide gate.

So what's the point?

The point is that a person does not even think of another gate, much less look for one.

SO WHAT IS THE WIDE GATE?

Galatians 5:19-21` Now the works of the **flesh are evident, They are evident to all.**

**Adultery** is unfaithfulness in the marriage relationship.

**Fornication** is unlawful sexual intercourse.

**Uncleanness** is moral evil, sensuality.

**Lewdness** is shameless conduct involving absence of restraint.

**Idolatry** is not only the worship of idols, but also the immorality that accompanies demon worship.

**Sorcery** is witchcraft, the Greek word being related to drugs (*pharmakeia*). Because drugs were used in sorcery, the word came to mean intercourse with evil spirits, or the use of magic spells. It may also include superstitions, "bad luck," etc. *Its amazing how many tv shows there are about witchcraft!!*

**Hatred** means strong feelings of malice directed toward individuals.

**Contentions** are discord, variance, quarrels.

**Jealousies** are distrust, suspicions.

**Wrath** is **outbursts** of hot anger or passions.

**Selfish ambitions** are self-centered strivings to be "number one," even at others' expense.

**Dissensions** are separations caused by disagreements.

**Heresies** are sects formed by men with self-willed opinions.

**Envy** is displeasure at the success or prosperity of others.

**Murders** are unlawful killing of others.

**Drunkenness** refers to intoxication caused by strong drink.

**Revelries** are riotous gatherings for entertainment, accompanied by drunkenness.,

AND THE REST OF THE VERSE READS:

and the like; **of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

IT USED TO BE YOU HAD TO CENSOR THE MOVIES AND TV SHOWS NOW THE COMMERCIALS ARE DOWNRIGHT DISGUSTING!!!

**Proverbs 14:12** There is a way *that seems right to a man*, But its end *is the way of death.*

There are people who are going through the wide gate and think they are doing everything right. The pro choice people truly believe they are doing the right thing, not to mention certain philosophy's, religions, the LGBT movement, the list goes on and on.

Now Lets talk about the narrow gate.

Because **narrow is the gate** and **difficult is the way which leads to life**, and there are few who **find it**.

To start you must turn from the wide gate: turn from following the crowd; turn from the activity and attractions around the gate turn from all the bells and whistles and all the lies.

We must search for the narrow gate and seek it out diligently.

We must enter immediately when we find the narrow gate.

No matter how difficult and narrow.

So How does a person enter the narrow gate (heaven)?

**1. He must repent:** turn from the wide gate, the crowd, the activity and attractions around the gate (the world).

The word repent or repentance is used 68 times in 64 verses in the NKJV.

**Matthew 3:11** I indeed baptize you with water unto **repentance**, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

**Matthew 4:17** From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand**."

**Luke 5:32** I have not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to **repentance**."

**Acts 3:19** **Repent** therefore and be **converted**, that your sins may be **blotted out**, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

**2Corinthians 7:10** For godly sorrow produces **repentance leading to salvation**, not to be regretted; but the **sorrow of the world produces death**.

2. He must be born again:

**John 3:3** Jesus answered and said to him, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God**."

**1Peter 1:23** having been **born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the **word of God** which **lives and abides forever**

What else does it take for a person enter the narrow gate?

3. **A person must become as a little child** (Mk. 10:15; Lu. 18:17).

**Mark 10:13-15** Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought *them*.<sup>14</sup> But when Jesus saw *it*, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "**Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.** <sup>15</sup> **Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.**"

**1Peter 1:13-14** Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;<sup>14</sup> **as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;**

4. Put off the old man.

**Ephesians 4:22-24** that you **put off, concerning your former conduct,** the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup> **and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,** <sup>24</sup> and that you **put on the new man which was created according to God,** in true righteousness and holiness.

Application:

- *The narrow and hard way* requires commitment, determination, discipline, control, and self-denial, obedience, in the Word , fellowshiping, disciplining, getting disciplined!
- We have to stay alert at all times.