

# Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas

August 10, 2025 - Starting with Me: Kingdom Living in a Broken World

## Main Passage: Matthew 7:12

### I. Setting the Context

- Matthew 7:1-12 is the conclusion of a section in the Sermon on the Mount dealing with judgment.
- Context from previous weeks:
  - **Verses 1-5** – Do not judge a believer's righteousness; first address your own sin.
  - **Verse 6** – Do not expect unbelievers to act like believers; don't cast pearls before swine.
  - **Verses 7-11** – 'Ask, seek, knock' is about seeking God's wisdom to address our own unrighteousness.
- Therefore (v.12) ties all of this together in the 'Golden Rule.'

### II. The Golden Rule – Jesus' Version vs. The World's Version

- Jesus' Version – 'Whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them.' (Positive command)
- Worldly & Historical Versions – Often stated in the negative:
  - **Rabbi Hillel** – 'What is hateful to yourself do not do to someone else.'
  - **Tobit** – 'What thou thyself hatest, to no man do.'
  - **Confucius** – 'What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.'
  - **Nicocles, Stoics** – Similar negative phrasing.
- KEY DIFFERENCE: The world's version is self-preservation. Jesus' version is self-giving love, rooted in the heart.

### III. Matters of the Heart

- Righteousness is more than outward action—it is a heart condition (cf. Matthew 5 on murder and adultery).
- APPLYING THE GOLDEN RULE:
  - Not judging to avoid criticism is selfish.
  - Address your own 'beam' to lovingly help a brother with their 'splinter.'
  - Motivation: Love, not belittlement.

## **IV. Practical Application of the Golden Rule**

### **A. WITHIN THE CHURCH FAMILY**

- Galatians 6:10 – Work for the good of all, especially believers.
- Seek intentional ways to bless others, even sacrificially.
- Example: Going out of the way to help family in need (dog-sitting story).

### **B. IN THE COMMUNITY & DAILY LIFE**

- How do you treat cashiers, waiters, or people who are rude?
- Luke 6:31-33, 35-36 – Loving only those who love you is no credit; love enemies and expect nothing in return.
- Romans 12:18 – 'As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.'

## **V. The Golden Rule as the Law and the Prophets**

- For Pharisees, fulfilling the Law meant hundreds of detailed rules (Mishnah).
- Jesus simplifies: Love God and love others fulfills the Law (Matthew 22:37-40).
- Romans 13:10 – 'Love does no wrong to a neighbor... love is the fulfillment of the law.'

## **VI. The Power to Love Like This**

- We can love because God first loved us (1 John 4:7-8, 19-20).
- Romans 5:8 – While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- John 15:13 – The greatest love is laying down your life for friends.
- Jesus calls us His friends, family, and co-heirs in the Kingdom.

## **Key Quotes from the Sermon**

- “The Golden Rule is not about avoiding harm; it’s about actively doing good.”
- “You can’t help someone with their splinter until you’ve dealt with your own beam.”
- “God’s love for us is the reason we can love others sacrificially.”

## **Key Takeaways**

- Context is key—Matthew 7:12 flows from Jesus’ teaching on judgment.
- The Golden Rule is about active, self-giving love, not passive self-preservation.
- True righteousness starts with the heart.
- Put the Golden Rule into practice in the church, community, and even toward those who are enemies.
- God’s love for us enables us to love others as He commands.