

The Golden Rule

Matt 7.12

The Sermon on the Mount is all about devotion and lifestyle.

Understand that the root word of devotion is devote.

So we have to devote ourselves to a lifestyle of following Christ.

Definition of "devote":

To give or apply entirely to a particular activity

To set apart for a specific purpose

To appropriate, or set aside

To consecrate

Pray without ceasing. (1 Thess 5.17)

Devote yourself without ceasing...

Devotions are not something you do, devotion is something you are, (a state of being).

We need constant devotion, a lifestyle because...

1. *We Sin Too Much!* We need an hourly (sometimes by the minute!) cleansing.
2. *God Speaks Too Much!* It takes all day listening!
3. *We Don't Hear Well Enough!* Many things can confuse our hearing.

To fully walk out the Sermon on the Mt takes an active, open heart of devotion.

Not a perfection; not flawless obedience, not a paragon of spirituality

Wonderful story of Samuel in 1 Sam 3: 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'"

Even the prophet Samuel had to LEARN TO LISTEN!

Context!

Begins in vs 7, which says we can go to God for our needs and receive help from Him:

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened

The next few verses elaborate on this thought.

Just as a caring human father gives good gifts to his children, so, too,
God gives good things to those who ask Him

Vs 12 concludes the thought:

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

1. **ACTION:** DO...

It carries us beyond the sentiment of love to the ACTION of DOING.
It is useless to feel love, but NOT ACT or ACT UNJUSTLY

2. **SCOPE.** "Whatever you want people..."

All people...all the time...everywhere!

Not just to brethren, friends, neighbors, fellow-Xians, fellow-citizens.

It applies to strangers, disagreeable people, nice people, grouchy people,

3. **CLARITY**

Very little ambiguity! *You treat someone else the way you want to be treated.*

You forgive them when forgiveness is not called for.

You pray for them when you should be cursing them.

You set them free when you should be judging them.

Instead of holding them captive, you let them go.

And when they should not be loved, you love them all the more.

It's not confusing.

BALANCE:

"Well he's a drug dealer and got caught, so let him go free...because that's the way I..."

He needs to be treated fairly, justly, trial by peers, pay the penalty.

That's what I WOULD expect for me"

Deeper than that...How should I treat:

That wealthy, arrogant person?

Drug addict?

Prostitute?

Transgender?

Democrat?

Republican?

Biden supporter?

Trump supporter?

I have to treat them the WAY THAT I want to be treated!

APPLY THIS RULE

In thought.

In WORD.

In DEED.

I Believe it starts in the MIND...

Let the words of my mouth...

In word and deed (Rom 15.18

Out of the heart proceeds evil thoughts...which leads to deeds:

murders, adulteries and fornications...

In Heb 4.12, the Word is discerning the thoughts and the intentions of the heart.

What begins in the mind moves to the mouth:

I speak that which I know.

The mouth has to move to the deed.

If there is anything the world needs now, it is Spirit-filled believers acting out of the love of Christ!