



The Golden Rule

November 30

INTRODUCTION: At first glance today's verses seem quite random. Why does the Golden Rule and the teaching of the narrow gate appear as seemingly isolated bullet points? What relation do they have with the wider Sermon, with each other? Tonight we'll find out as we end the main section of the Sermon on righteousness and begin the conclusion.

KEY POINT: the righteous standard; the way of discipleship

CHALLENGE: In one sitting, read the whole sermon often over the coming months.

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Eph 4:1-6, Basis of Unity)

- What does our passage speak as to the spirit of unity the Christian should have?
- What 7 things form the basis of Christian unity?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (WWBWWB: Ecumenism, Amos 3:3)

- What is ecumenism?
- Why must the Gospel be the basis of true Christian unity?
- What tools are at our disposal to help us balance truth and unity?

READ: Mt 7:12-14

QUESTIONS:

The Golden Rule

1. *V. 12 is the bookend to Mt 5:17 as both deal with "the Law and the Prophets" and each in relation to righteousness. V. 12 is therefore not random but a summary of the centre of the Sermon.*
2. Have you ever heard that the Golden Rule's presence in other religions proves that all religions are the same?

Hinduism	<i>This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.</i>
Judaism	<i>What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow creatures.</i>
Buddhism	<i>Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.</i>

*Often these are negative: if you don't like being hit, don't hit others; if you don't like being gossiped about, don't gossip, etc. **How is Jesus'***

statement positive and therefore far more searching?¹ What sort of righteousness does He require?

3. *The Golden Rule forms a rapid test of the perfection or righteousness Jesus requires of His disciples. **How ought this to cause us to ask, see and knock; to be singularly focused on the Lord?***
4. **Why doesn't the Golden Rule mention the first half of the Great Commandment?**
5. Why do we call it Golden?

Two Ways

6. *Jesus concludes by stressing two possibilities: you are either in the Kingdom or not, on the path or not. To enter requires poverty of spirit.*
7. *Picture an old city with small and large entrances; wide thoroughfares and narrow alley ways.*
8. **Vv. 13-14- What do these verses speak about entrance, perseverance and the destination of those who follow Jesus? (and conversely about those who don't).**
9. Many forms of evangelism seek to funnel people into the Kingdom by making it appear easy. What do the demands of the Sermon speak to our evangelistic approach?
10. Rather than speculation about who will be saved (though Jesus speaks a reality here) what are His words meant to do?

Coming Up:

Dec 7- A Tree and Its Fruit

Dec 14- I Never Knew You

Dec 21- The Wiseman and the Foolishman

No Life Group Dec 28/30 and Jan 4/6. We'll begin a new study on Jan 11/13.

¹