

Sermon on the Mount
Lesson #20
“Kingdom Responsibilities”
Treat others the way you want treated IV

Matthew 7:12

Scripture: Matthew 5:20 *“For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

Introduction:

During the winter Taylor and I were headed to Menards to pick up something and there was this snow plow guy working a driveway and blocking traffic . So I stopped and waited till I thought he was done and then slowly begin to pull forward.

This guy jumps out of his truck and comes over to me mad and cussing because he wasn't done and I should have known it. Against every feeling in my bones I was polite and asked him how I could help. He grumbled something about staying out of his wayand realizing there was no fight to have he got back in his truck and moved out of the road and let traffic by.

Honestly I was tempted to jump out and teach this cat a lesson, to set things straight, to put him in his place for the whole world to see, ...but God tapped on my heart and provided a way of escape and He won the day.

As we drove away I was worried that my son would see me as weak and with that thought I explained to him how it was strength in the Lord to not let others drag you down. I prayed during that drive for that man and also that the first inclination of my heart would always be to love people first.

[So what kind of things determine how we treat other people?](#)

1. Probably a good place to start is....How they are treating us
2. Or how they have treated us in the past
3. What about what they deserve
4. Or what we can get out of the deal
5. Whether we know them or not
6. How we feel
 - If we are tired
 - Upset or happy
7. Are we pressured for time
8. Are others watching

Transitional Statement:

Church, Jesus our Lord today is going to simply remind us today that the way we treat other people really matters.

Read: Matthew 7:12

“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

I. Basically Jesus is saying that we need to treat other people the way we want to be treated.

A. This is usually referred to as the golden rule.

1. Perhaps because of its tremendous potential and value in the lives of mankind.
2. Interestingly enough it is included in most religious doctrines today.
3. Even non-Christians see the value in it.
 - a. My grandfather was an atheist, but proclaimed the golden rule as his guide to life.
 - b. So he even understood the great value in it.

B. But what seems so easy and well understood can be quite complicated.

1. Here is what I mean.
 - a. The basic question here is “How do we want to be treated?”
 - b. This is an easy question right?we want to be treated “good”
 - 1) But this vague answer is not what the Lord is looking for.

C. Most of the time with this verse I’ve breezed right by this question to fast

1. I found this out when I sat down for what I thought would be a couple of minutes to answer this questionand for some reason I found myself struggling to answer it.
 - a. My thinking turned into hours and several prayers. I even laid awake for part of a night thinking about it.
 - b. Frankly I was bothered by my struggle to answer this question.

D. But I pressed on ...and here is how I want to be treated.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. With Grace | 8. Truth and honesty |
| 2. Mercy and forgiveness | 9. Encouragement |
| 3. Kind | 10. Caring |
| 4. Gentle | 11. Protection |
| 5. Respect | 12. Guidance |
| 6. Valued as a person | 13. Love |
| 7. Patience | |

E. Hopefully you noticed that I said this is how I want to be treated.

1. Part of this is that Jesus wants each of us to struggle with this question for ourselves. In short I can't answer this question for you.

F. But after applying myself in understanding how I want to be treated...it came to me.

1. I have always tried to please other people so much that I have never given much time to this question at all.
2. I am almost 42 years old and have never spent more than a couple of minutes thinking deeply about how I want to be treated.
 - a. You know Satan likes that, because when we understand deeply how we want to be treated ...it affects how we treat others.
 - b. I wish that I had answered this question a long time ago...it would have helped me stay out of some problems in my life and it would have helped me to accomplish much more for the Lord.

G. Tuesday Dave, Glen and myself went fishing and as we left Otter Creek Dave turned left. After a short time the road turned to gravel and Dave explained that he was sorry and had forgotten to have us go a better way. We quickly dismissed the whole thing and keep going. But we quickly found out that the Lord had us go left. You see we passed this lady stranded on this old gravel road out in the middle of absolutely nowhere. We were so tired ...sun-burnt, windblown and it was late in the evening, but we stopped helped the lady with some gas and gave her a pile of food we had left over. One of the guys gave her a little money and we prayed with her. This woman from Georgia had lost her job and was traveling from town to town to tell people about Jesus.

1. We had a choice to pass by like the priest and the Levite. Luke 10
 - a. We could have justified ourselves with plenty of excuses
2. But we chose to be like the good Samaritan
 - a. To stop and treat her the way we would like to be treated.
 - b. As we drove away I wondered if we had entertained an angle unaware. If that was the Lord standing there to see if we would feed Him.
 - c. This kind of thing goes right along with loving our neighbor as our self. Lev 19:18

II. The first couple of words of this verse spell out the boundaries and limitations of treating others the way we want to be treated.

A. Jesus says "*In everything*"

1. I did some checking on this word and I found out that it is all inclusive. So there is nothing it does not include.
 - a. While shopping
 - b. Playing basket ball
 - c. While driving our cars
 - d. While arguing
 - e. While walking and talking
 - f. While living out our lives every day
 - * IN EVERYTHING !

2. But somehow we feel like treating others the way we want to be treated can be contingent on how we feel, or what is going on in our lives.
 - a. Or whether it has been deserved or earned
 - b. But the Lord says No! in everything.
 - 1) Without exception.

III. Then the “*Therefore*” of this passage in context leads us to a contrast of how the Scribes and Pharisee’s treated others.

- A. As we have mentioned already of the Scribes and Pharisees.
 1. They were hypocrites, expecting of others what they wouldn’t do themselves.
 2. They were arrogant elevating themselves above other people
 - a. i.e. They would climb over your back to get to the top.
 3. While proclaiming godliness they would pass by a stranded person in the ditch to fend for themselves.
 4. They sought to have honor over the people around them.
 5. They were judgmental
 - a. And hope you got what you deserved
 6. They were in it for what they could get out of it.

- B. With this “*therefore*” Jesus is calling us to remember not to treat each others like the Scribes and the Pharisees treat people.
 1. With their holier than thou, self righteous judgmental mindset.
 2. Not Lording it over others

IV. And then the mention of the law and the prophets point to a key ingredient

A. Matthew 22:36-40

36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' 40 " On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

B. Did you catch the foundational concept of the law and the prophets?.....Love !

1. Love makes the difference in how we treat people.

C. 1 Corinthians 13 says:

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails

D. And Love is the #1 fruit of the Spirit...Gal chapter 5

Conclusion:

Our actions as Christians should move us against road rage and adversity.

Our actions need to come from understanding, love and a view of God's eternal plan...