

KINGDOM LIFE

**OUTRAGEOUS HOPE
FOR ORDINARY LIFE**

“The Golden Rule”

Sunday, June 16, 2019

Matthew 7:12-14

**A WORSHIP SERIES THROUGH
JESUS' SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

Matthew 7:12-14

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

¹³ Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”



“The Law and the Prophets”

How would you summarize your faith?

How do you know what to do and not do?

How do you know if you are “measuring up”?



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“The Law and the Prophets”

The Mishnah

Takes the Ten Commandments and lists out 613 individual everyday practical rules for what it looks to live them out.

“The Rabbis decreed that one not only should avoid forbidden acts but also must not do anything that (1) resembles a prohibited act or could be confused with it, (2) is a habit linked with a prohibited act, or (3) usually leads to performing a prohibited act.”

(this includes opening an umbrella on the sabbath, because it resembles working construction)

- Jewish Publication Society

OFFICE CLIP

So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them

The Golden Rule

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”

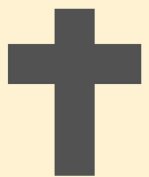
Putting yourself in others' shoes
Others doing the same for you

Matthew 22:37-40

And (Jesus) 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 first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

THE GOLDEN RULE ACROSS RELIGIONS

Christianity



"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." - Luke 6:31

Islam



"None of you will believe until you love for your brother what you love for yourself." - 40 Hadith, n13

Hinduism



"Do naught unto others what you would not have them do unto you." - Mahabharata 5:15:17

Buddhism



"Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful."
- Udanavarga 5:18

Judaism



"What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour."
- Talmud, Shabbath 31a

C.S. Lewis in Mere Christianity uses the existence of a universal moralism as proof that there must be a God that orchestrated what is "good" ...the questions is simply...which God...

The goal is beautiful – to honor God through holy living.
...However...

But...the Golden Rule is incredibly misunderstood when we treat loving others as the goal rather than the result.

1) We aren't nearly as loving as we think we are:

“Do unto others before they do unto you.” – Archie Bunker

2) Behavior isn't at all what Jesus was all about.

Matthew 15:8

“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me...”

Jesus zigs when every other religion zags, telling us that our behavior:

1) Has no impact on his love for us

2) Is a natural result of his love in us

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“For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction”

Using My Own Standard

“To thine own self be true”

I’m a good person,
better than most

Using God’s Standard

God’s goal is for me to be good.

When I am good, he blesses me.
When I’m not, he is angry with me.

I deserve to be blessed.

I am / do / think / believe better than others.



“For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction”



“For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction”



“For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction”



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n”



Whether it's our own standard or some religious standard,
we all fall infinitely short

The wide, crowded and easy way boils down to this:

“I can do it on my own...
I'll do it my way...
I am the master of my own fate,
I am the captain of my soul.”



“destruction”

I willingly believe that the damned are, in one sense, successful, rebels to the end; that the doors of hell are locked on the inside.
– The Problem of Pain (C.S. Lewis)

We must picture Hell as a state where everyone is perpetually concerned about his own dignity and advancement, where everyone has a grievance, and where everyone lives the deadly serious passions of envy, self-importance, and resentment.
– The Screwtape Letters (C.S. Lewis)

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy
I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.



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*For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to **life***

Impossibly Difficult

Luke 18:21-23

And he said, "All these I have kept from my youth." ²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²³ But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.



*For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to **life***

Impossibly Difficult

Luke 9:23-25

And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?”



Secret Sisters – Carry me

For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life

Incredibly Easy

It's only wide enough for one -- Jesus himself carrying us.

John 14:2-6

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

As long as I recognize the road as the one I am commanded to walk, and try to walk it in fear of myself, it is truly impossible. But if I see Jesus Christ walking ahead of me, step by step, if I look only at Him and follow him, step by step, then I will be protected on this path. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Life”

He's offering to make us to be the women and men we were made to be...not take away our self-ness, but help us realize our deeper, truer self -- as his adopted children.

“I do not think that all who choose wrong roads perish; but their rescue consists in being put back on the right road.”
— C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*

So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly,
since love covers a multitude of sins.

