



# **Living the Golden Rule**

Matthew 7:7-12

# **“The Golden Rule”**

- Matt 7:12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
- Luke 6:31 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.
- Rabbi Hillel: “What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow creatures”
- Jesus: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”

# The Context of Matthew 7

- Matt 7:1-6 how not to treat others (critically)
  - Don't judge others differently than ourselves
- Matt 7:7-12 how to act toward others (lovingly)
  - God promises to answer our prayers
  - God challenges us to live by golden rule



# A Golden Promise

- Matt 7:7-8 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.
  - Context of seeking the kingdom of God
  - Matt 6:9-15 Our Father in heaven, Your will be done
  - Matt 6:25-33 don't worry/seek first His kingdom
- First Seek God, ask for His righteous desires for us
  - Then look toward others, live out the Golden Rule

# Ask Persistently

- Matt 7:7-8 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.
  - Ask God.. Seek God, righteousness.. Knock on his door
  - Everyone who asks this way will receive
  - Our Dependence on God



# Encouragement to Ask

- Matt 7:9-11 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?
  - Parents want to give our children good things
  - We don't always give what they ask, but what they need
- 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

# The Golden Rule

- Matt 7:12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
  - “Therefore” connects to previous promise
  - Because of what God has done for us as a loving Father
  - Problem: we want to think only of ourselves, our needs
  - Solution: because God meets our needs frees us
  - We don’t do unto others so they will do unto us

# Our motivation is from God

- Key word: “Therefore”..
  - God is a loving Father who invites us to approach His throne
  - We can be confident He will give us what we need
  - Now go and give others what they need
  - God’s love is to motivate your love for others
  - Don’t give to others what they deserve
  - Ask: what would we want?





# **This is the law and the prophets**

- The very heart of the Law and the Prophets
  - Leviticus 19:18 You shall love your neighbor as yourself
  - God has increased this through giving His own Son
  - Look what God has done for you through the cross
  - He tells us to ask of Him and expect to receive
  - He give good gifts to His children..
  - Now do the same.. Change the world



# **Living the Golden Rule**

Matthew 7:7-12