

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 7:12

The Golden Rule! Many of you have grown up with the knowledge of this verse as a child. You were taught to treat others as you wished to be treated. You may not have realized that this verse is located at the end of Jesus’s “Sermon on the Mount.” Jesus teaches on the attitudes of the heart and how we are to live, and then he provides one last summary statement that sums up all the teachings from the Law and the Prophets. God’s will for you is to love others in a way that benefits them, not you.

The greatest first line from any book I have ever read came from “The Purpose Driven Life” when it stated, “It is not about you!” Our country today is more self-centered than at any other time in history. And it is sad how people treat each other in all areas of life. Imagine what our world would be like if everyone lived by the Golden Rule. The funny thing is most people are taught the Golden Rule, but very few live according to the Golden Rule. That might be why Jesus followed up this verse with topics that challenge people to either follow him or live a life that leads to disaster. Are you willing to go down the narrow gate and find life? Do you produce good or bad fruit? Are you a true disciple of God? Is your life built on a solid foundation based on your faith in God? Or is your life based on ignoring God’s word and living according to your own truth? All these questions are the ones that Jesus asked after summarizing the Sermon on the Mount with this great statement on Love.

What is the source of how we are to live? It starts with an attitude of the heart based on a faith in God. It starts with love. And to really love others, means we are willing to treat them in a manner that benefits them. Jesus provided a beautiful illustration on what true community looks like. However, you cannot wait for others to treat you this way. It needs to start with you!

Read Matthew 7