

The Golden Rule

Statement...the lesson began with Dr. Shelton's premise that for every action there is a reaction; that we attract into our lives what we invite; and that if we act in certain ways, we get certain results.

How have you seen that principle at work in your life?

Jesus' version of this is what we have come to know as the Golden Rule: treat others the way we'd like to be treated. It isn't a RULE; it is a reminder. That how others treat us is connected to how we treat them. If we act critically, then prepare for criticism; if we show love, love flows back. It is not just a good way to live; it is how God expects us to live.

The Bible in Cliff Notes: Golden rule is the CLIFF NOTES version of the entire bible. We know it by heart. We know what it means but we don't want to change our ways.

How do you treat others? How do you want to be treated? Is there a disconnect between the two?

It isn't the RULE ON THE STREETS; what rules the streets is the law of the jungle is, the survival of fittest. The motto many live by, "Do unto others before they have a chance to do it to you" What motivates them is gaining an advantage. There is a better way, Jesus says

TREAT EVERY PERSON YOU MEET THE WAY YOU'D LIKE TO BE TREATED, WHETHER YOU FEEL LIKE IT OR NOT.

THE GOLD IN GOLDEN RULE...kindness is THE GOLD in the golden rule. We who follow Jesus have an EXTRA INCENTIVE to be kind. We strive to live as he lived. He didn't just quote the Golden rule; he embodied it in all that he said/did. Kindness was a WAY OF LIFE, his way of looking at life. Kindness started in his eyes: Jesus noticed what others missed. He saw people others ignored. Kindness moved to his HEART. Before he healed a wound, he first felt it in his heart: the limp of the CRIPPLE, the pain of the SICK, or the shame of the SINFUL. Kindness then moved to his hands: he held the grieving, loved the unlovable, and touched the untouchable.

LIVING OUT THE FAITH...Jesus has made it clear: knowing the right thing to do isn't the same thing as doing it. He won't lower his standards just because we find them hard to meet. We are called to be kind, have compassion, whether others repay us the favor or not. This requires a sacrifice of time and a willingness to risk our love. Trying to practice the Golden rule without God is like drawing power from a battery. It may work for a while, but it needs an external source to recharge it, or else it dies. We love because he first loved us.