

# June 12, 2016

## Scripture: Matthew 7:1-12

### “The Golden Rule”

**“[Therefore] In everything, treat others as you would want them to treat you, for this fulfills the law and the prophets” (Matthew 7:12, NET Bible).**

1. Verse 12...why it is called the “Golden Rule”?

2. Other examples of the Golden Rule...

"Do for one who may do for you, that you may cause him thus to do."  
(Ancient Egypt, The Tale of the Eloquent Peasant, 1800 BCE).

"Never impose on others what you would not choose for yourself"  
(Confucius, c. 500 BC).

"Do not do to others that which angers you when they do it to you."  
(Ancient Greece, Isocrates, 436–338 BC)

"Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful" (Buddhism,  
Udanavarga 5:18).

3. “Therefore...” [ouv, “oun”]—connecting the Golden Rule with verse 11  
(and the rest of the Sermon On The Mount)

4. Different Rules:

- **The “Bronze Rule”**: “Do to others what you think they would do to you.”
- **The “Silver Rule”**: “Don’t do to others what you do not want them to do to you.”

- **The “Golden Rule”**: “Do to others what you want them to do to you.”
    1. Positive, action-focused.
    2. Uses the “selfish gene”: “...as you would want them to treat you...”
      - 2 ways of ethics:
        - God-centered: How does God want us to act?
        - Us-centered: How do you want others to treat you?
- The selfish motivation becomes **the standard**.
3. Selfishness turned into unselfishness: “Do to others...”

Treating others becomes **the action**.

Example of Haman: “What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?” (Esther 6:6)

5. No promise of reciprocity.

- **“The Diamond Rule”**: the life / rule of Jesus  
 “Treat others as you would want them to treat you knowing that they will treat you horribly.”

6. Living Out The Golden Rule:

Forgiveness...Grace...Judging (Matthew 7:1-5: How do we want others to “judge” us?)