

# CAN YOU NAVIGATE THE DIFFICULTIES OF LIFE?

- ❖ We need a **great teacher**
- ❖ We need a **great Savior!**
- ❖ ***Jesus is that one and only person who will accomplish both needs!***

# **THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT, OR, NAVIGATING LIFE**

- ❖ **Learning the Christian 'walk'**
- ❖ **Growing in our faith**
- ❖ **Getting closer to Jesus**

# SOTM LESSON 11: THE *GOLDEN RULE*

1. Be *persistent!*
2. Good *gifts!*
3. *Proactive* good
4. *One way* street

# **MATTHEW 7.7-14, NIV**

- **<sup>7</sup> “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.**

- **9 “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? <sup>11</sup> If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!**

- **<sup>12</sup> So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.**

- **<sup>13</sup> “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.**

# 1. BE PERSISTENT!

- Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.
- How often should I ask, seek, and knock?
- <sup>17</sup> pray continually,
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:17(NIV)



## 2. GOOD GIFTS!

- If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!
- This is WHY we pray!
- <sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

– Romans 8.28

- Every *good and perfect gift* is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

–James 1:17

# 3. PROACTIVE GOOD

- <sup>12</sup> So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.
- Only Jesus puts this in the positive
- most religions put this in the negative:
- Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.
- — [Udanavarga](#) 5:18 (Buddhism)

- Jesus' teaching goes beyond the negative formulation of not doing what one would not like done to themselves, to the positive formulation of actively doing good to another that, if the situations were reversed, one would desire that the other would do for them.

- This formulation, as indicated in the parable of the **Good Samaritan**, emphasizes the needs for **positive action** that brings **benefit** to another, not simply restraining oneself from negative activities that hurt another.

– [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden\\_Rule](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Rule)

- Romans **12.17-21** – check it out!!

- But the Golden Rule is not necessarily a religious rule. It says absolutely nothing about a deity or a higher power. You can be an atheist and still love the Golden Rule. It is actually a scientific psychological rule. It is a formula for harmony. It is the way to turn enemies into friends—bullies into buddies.

- The Golden Rule puts *me* in charge. I am going to turn you into my friend even if you treat me like an enemy. How? By consistently treating you like a friend even when you are treating me like an enemy. Before long, you will start treating me like a friend because you are biologically programmed for reciprocity—to treat *me* the way I am treating *you*.

- So the Golden Rule is the ultimate **empowerment**. People who truly live by the Golden Rule rarely have **relationship** problems and do not become victims of bullying.
- <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/psychological-solution-bullying/201105/principle-number-three-the-golden-rule>



# **4. ONE WAY STREET**

- <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.
- the gate to heaven is “narrow” in the sense of having a particular requirement for entrance - **faith in Jesus Christ**. Salvation is found only in the Person of Jesus Christ; He is the only way (John 14:6). The “wide” gate is non-exclusive; it allows for human effort and all other of the world’s religions.
  - <https://www.gotquestions.org/narrow-path.html>

# JOHN 14.6

- <sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, “I am *the way* and the *truth* and the *life*. No one comes to the Father except *through me*.”

# PUTTING IT AL TOGETHER:

1. **Be persistent! – pray! Pray a lot!**
2. **Good gifts! – “Good, Good, Father”/Chris Tomlin**
3. **Proactive good – Do unto \_\_\_\_\_**
4. **One way street – Thank God Jesus is The Way!**