

March 8, 2020

“Transplant:
A Change of Heart”

“A Change in Our Treatment of Others:
The Golden Rule” Core 22

“Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”
Matthew 7:12

A. The Sermon on the Mount was transformational to the hearers...

“When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, for He taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.” Matthew 7:28-29

1. The Sermon on the Mount was not new in its message. “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.” Matthew 7:12

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.” Leviticus 19:18
“Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.” Deuteronomy 6:4-7

“Jesus replied, ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:37-40

2. The Sermon on the Mount was not different in its expectation.

“Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved.” Matthew 5:17-18

3. The “Golden Rule” principle had been in existence before Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount. It was just given in a positive manner rather than a negative. It was given in an active manner rather than a passive one. The “Silver Rule” had been given before.

Hillel, a Jewish Rabbi, “Do not do to your neighbor what is hateful to yourself.”

Socrates, “What stirs you to anger when done to you by others, do not do to others.”

Aristotle, “We should bear ourselves toward others as we would desire they should bear themselves toward us.”

Confucius, “What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.”

4. The Sermon on the Mount was complete in that it now accounted for a change of heart!

“We have committed the Golden Rule to memory; let us now commit it to life.” Edwin Markham

B. The Golden Rule encapsulates all of the Sermon on the Mount...

“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 NIV

1. Jesus sums up all the Scriptures to a few simple principles...i.e. the Golden Rule, the Great Commandment, and the Great Commission.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
Matthew 28:19-20

2. The gospel message challenges our selfish lives and our comfortable style of living.

“Don’t look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with surefire, easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practiced in your spare time. Don’t fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. The way to life—to God!—is vigorous and requires total attention.”
Matthew 7:13-14 The Message

3. The gospel message is love!

“Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and His love is brought to full expression in us. And God has given us His Spirit as proof that we live in Him and He in us. Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. We know how much God loves

us, and we have put our trust in His love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.” 1 John 4:7-16

C. God calls us to an active lifestyle of loving...

1. God calls us to listen and put into practice His principles. “But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.” James 1:22

2. Faith is practical and seen by our actions. “What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?” James 2:14

3. Faith is seen by both heart and action. “If you are wise and understand God’s ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.” James 3:13

4. Faith is evidenced by actions that are peace-loving, gentle, and willing to yield to others. “But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.” James 3:17-18

D. The Golden Rule changes how we treat others...

“Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can.” John Wesley

1. In speech. “Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” Ephesians 4:29

2. In action. “Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love.”
Ephesians 4:2

“Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.” Colossians 3:23

3. In reaction. “Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.” James 1:19

4. In attitude. “You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.”
Philippians 2:5

March 15: A Change in Ownership