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Matthew 7:12

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**Matthew 7:12: We come to a SIGNIFICANT THEREFORE: “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets”. Luke 6:27-36: This passage known by many to be “The Golden Rule”!**

I believe this “THEREFORE” refers to all that was spoken by the Lord Jesus ALL the way back to (5:17) when Jesus first spoke of FULFILLING and NOT DESTROYING the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew 5:17-20*

Bring that thought all the way forward to (7:12), where He said:

“THIS IS the law and the prophets”.

I don’t believe He was referring ONLY to what He had just spoken in regard to righteous judgment or even prayer.

I believe (V12) was a culmination of ALL of what our Lord taught from (5:17) to this place.

In making this powerful statement, He was declaring that THIS is what true righteousness LOOKS LIKE, (in the life of one who has it) toward their neighbor, unlike the fake and hypocritical righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees.

When you rightly DO unto others AS you would have them do unto you; THIS is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets, here specifically concerning the 2<sup>nd</sup> TABLE of the law.

Now we know that NO ONE fulfilled EITHER table of the law perfectly save the Lord Jesus. But the lesson here is, THIS IS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE when you KEEP the commandments of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Table!

*Matthew 7:12: “Therefore all things whatsoever YE WOULD that men should do to you, DO YE even so to them”*

*Luke 6:31: “And AS YE WOULD that men should do to you, DO YE also to them likewise”*

**EVERY one of you/me should LOVE the “golden rule” as it is called, it should be the ardent desire if every one of our hearts to KEEP IT!**

It is a distinct mark of an “exceeding better righteousness” than that of the scribes and Pharisees. Their rule was, DO unto me as I demand!

*Ye have heard that it hath been said: (6 Times), but I say unto you!*

Remember both Matthew and Luke record the Words of Christ in regard to the DOING of *Matthew 7:12: Matthew 5:38-48*

*Luke 6:35: “Ye shall be the children of the Highest”*

From (5:21-37), the Lord taught against murder, but also, anger and hatred; adultery, but also lust; swearing falsely; and then, He taught us of “A LOVE that is NOT from this world”, but from the Spirit of Christ within us.

Christ’s LOVE in us should motivate, incite, and provoke us to love in a radically different way than the world; We ought to love LIKE Christ loved!

*John 13:34-35, 1 John 3:16-19*

If we would DO unto OTHERS (or treat them) the way we would that they would treat us, (if we would love our neighbor the way Christ loved and loves us); oh, how many sins of hatred, anger, strife, pride, lust, and lying would be eliminated between our neighbors and us!

This is nothing new; just perfectly expounded by the Lord Jesus, and impeccably demonstrated in His perfect life: God taught the children of Israel in the OT to love to their neighbor as themselves, and to love the strangers among them.

*Leviticus 19:9-18, 32-34, James 2:8-16, Luke 10:25-37*

**This passage/command of Matthew 7:12 is like the similar passages of the OT; teaching us that we are to be proactive to obey this command toward our neighbor in obedience to Christ!**

That is, DO works of righteousness and kindness and acts of charity NOW for your neighbor, your friend, your husband, wife, child, parent, etc. Love them proactively NOW. You lean forward in this command, don't wait for them to treat you kindly, you treat them kindly first!

TO do this is the rare evidence of Christ within the soul of a regenerated sinner!