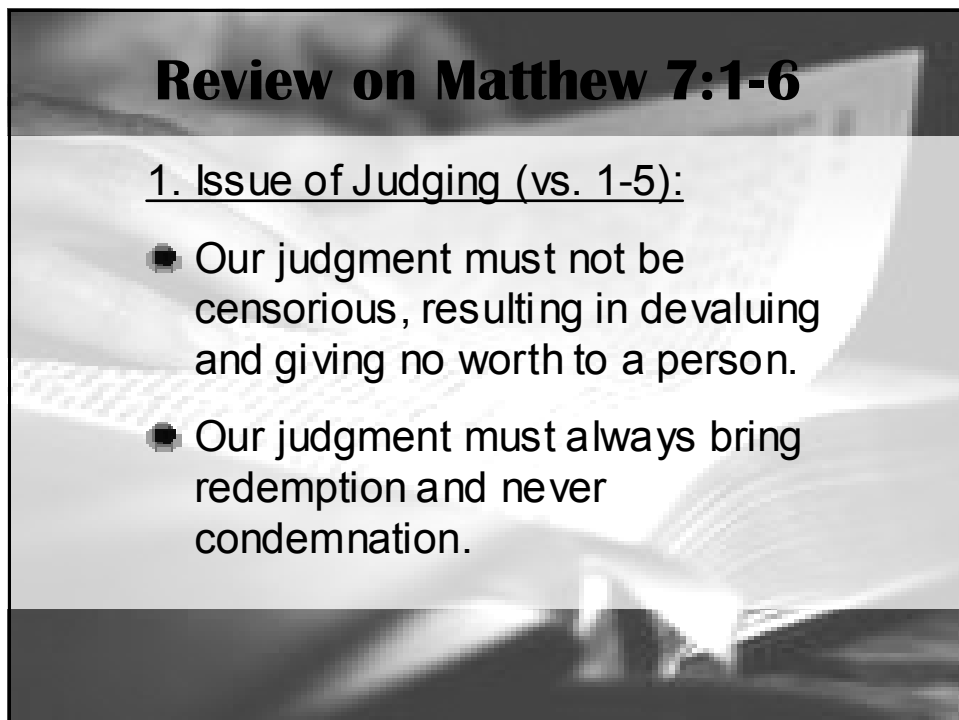




Sermon On The Mount
Week 11 – Matt. 7:7-12

Walking In The Word Service
Sat, 7.30pm
Sun, 8.30am



Review on Matthew 7:1-6

1. Issue of Judging (vs. 1-5):

- Our judgment must not be censorious, resulting in devaluing and giving no worth to a person.
- Our judgment must always bring redemption and never condemnation.

Review on Matthew 7:1-6

- We should deal with the “plank” in our own eye, before we can have the authority to deal with the faults of others.

Review on Matthew 7:1-6

2. Treatment of The Sacred Things of God (vs. 6)

- Sharing the gospel of Jesus to those who are not interested in receiving it.
- Not to give away the preciousness of the gospel to people who are not interested to hear it.
- It does not negate us from praying for them to be open to hear the gospel.



The issue of Prayers

Matthew 7:7-12 (NIV)

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



The issue of Prayers

- 9 “Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?*
- 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?*
- 11 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!*



The issue of Prayers

These actions are:

- Ask (αἰτέω)
- Seek (ζητέω)
- Knock (κρούω)



The issue of Prayers

The responses from God are:

Ask → It will be given

Seek → You will find

Knock → It will be opened



The issue of Prayers

- “Ask”, “Seek” and “Knock” are written in the imperative mood.
- These are commands from the Lord.
- It conveys the meaning that we are to keep on asking, seeking and knocking.



The issue of Prayers

Matthew 7:7 (Paraphrase)

“Keep on asking and it will be given to you;

Keep on seeking and you will find;

Keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you”



The issue of Prayers

Ask, Seek and Knock

form the acronym of **ASK.**



The issue of Prayers

A writer explains it this way:

“A child will ask if the mother is near and visible.

He will seek for the mother if she is neither near nor visible.

He will knock on the door if she is inaccessible in her room.”



The issue of Prayers

We are to come before God in **earnest** **persistent** desire to expect something from Him when we pray.



The issue of Prayers

The “Parable of the Persistent Widow” in **Luke 18:1-5** supports the teaching in Matt.7:7-8.



The issue of Prayers

Luke 18:1-5 (NIV)

- ¹ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.
- ² He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men.
- ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’



The issue of Prayers

- 4 “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care about men,*
- 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually wear me out with her coming!’”*



The issue of Prayers

- 6 And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says.*
- 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?”*



The issue of Prayers

- God is not against us repeating our prayers as long as they come from our hearts
- God was against the Pharisees because
 - ➔ babbling prayers that had no meanings
 - ➔ showing off their religious piety.



The issue of Prayers

Verses 7 & 8 do not mean:

- We can demand God for anything
- God is obligated to give us all that we ask for





The issue of Prayers

- God can answer us with a YES, NO or WAIT
- When God answers us with a NO or a WAIT, trust God that He knows what's best for us



The issue of Prayers

If we understand how to differentiate good gifts from bad, how much more than will God the Father know what kind of good gifts to give to us.



The issue of Prayers

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)

⁸ *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.*

⁹ *“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*



The issue of Prayers

Good gifts include both the good and bad things that may happen to us.



The issue of Prayers

Biblical Example 1:

David

- pursued by King Saul liked a fugitive
- pretended to be a mad man to escape being captured
- God was preparing David to be one of the greatest kings in Israel



The issue of Prayers

Biblical Example 2:

Joseph

- went through betrayal, slavery and imprisonment
- became the 2nd most powerful man in Egypt after 14 years

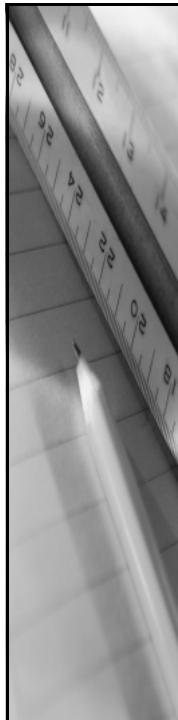


The issue of Prayers

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

“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.”

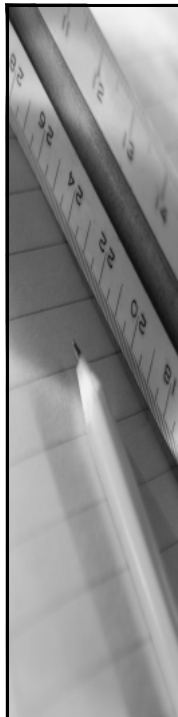




The issue of The Golden Rule

Righteousness:

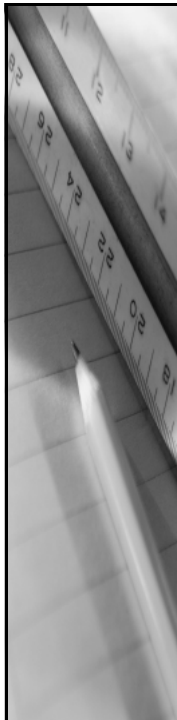
- A new relationship with God by means of God's grace in one's life through Jesus
- It requires conduct in keeping with this new relationship to God and others.



The issue of The Golden Rule

Two components that qualify one to be righteous:

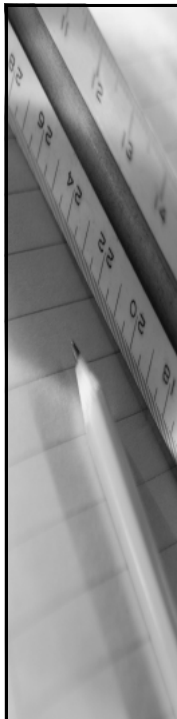
- a right relationship with God
- a godly conduct with others



The issue of The Golden Rule

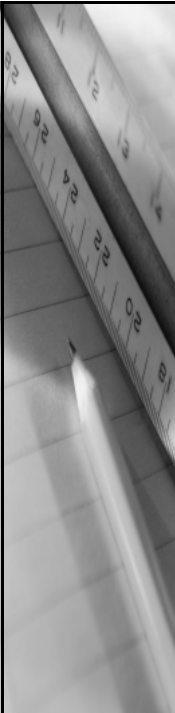
Matthew 5:20 (NIV)

“For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”



The issue of The Golden Rule

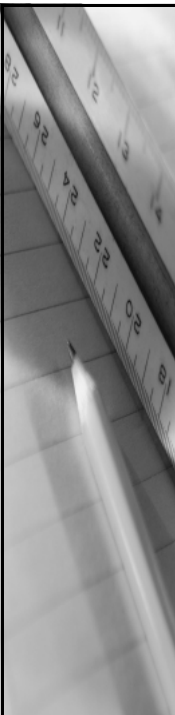
Matt.7:12 is the conclusion to the entire teaching on Righteousness.



The issue of The Golden Rule

GOLDEN RULE of relationship:

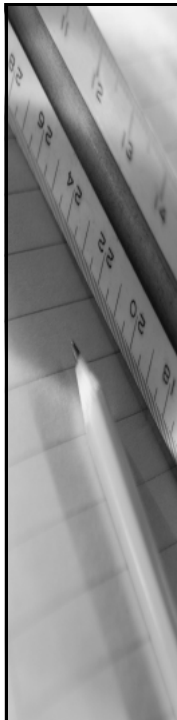
“Do to others what you would have them do to you.”



The issue of The Golden Rule

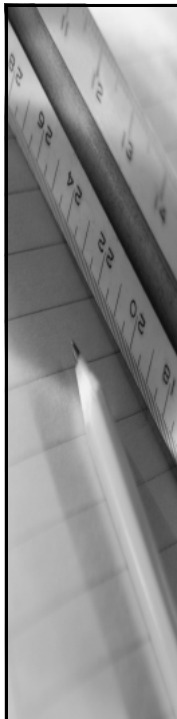
There is a similar Jewish golden rule that says:

“Do not do to anyone what you yourself would hate”.



The issue of The Golden Rule

- **Difference:**
 - ➔ it comes from a passive angle
 - ➔ you do not do things that you would not want others to do to you
- The Jewish golden rule ensures that no harm is done on others
- Jesus' Golden Rule is to bring blessing to others



The issue of The Golden Rule

Matthew 22:39 (NIV)

And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Conclusion

1. Issue of Prayer (Matt.7:7-11)

- Trust God to give good gifts to His people
- Good gifts:
 - ➔ do not mean gifts that we want.
 - ➔ but what God deems as appropriate
- Resolve in our hearts that we will believe and trust in God completely.



Conclusion

2. Golden Rule of Relationship

- **Matt.7:12 – “Do to others what you would have them do to you”.**
- **Proactive attitude to constantly bring blessing and do good to those around us.**



References

- **Richard Clover, A Teacher's Commentary on the Gospel of St.Matthew.**
- **John R. W. Stott, The Message of the Sermon on the Mount**
- **Robert Guelich, The Sermon on the Mount**
- **Hagner, D.A, Word Biblical Commentary**