

“Therefore, whatever you want  
men to do to you, do also to them,  
for this is the Law and the  
Prophets.”

Matthew 7:1-12

Luke 6:27-37

# The Law is Not:

- Vandal Rule
- Pleasure Rule
- Legal Rule
- Iron Rule

# The Law is Not:

- “Do unto others as they do unto you”
- Reciprocation
- Matthew 5:43-48
- 1 Peter 4:9
- Luke 6:35
- Bad behavior:
  - Escalation, Retaliation, Vengeance, Bitterness
- Matthew 26:67-28
- 1 Peter 2:18-25

# The Law is Not:

- “Do unto *some* others as you would have them do unto you”
- Partiality
- James 2:1-9
- Romans 13:8-10

# The Law is Not:

- “If you must and if it is convenient, do unto others as you would have them do unto you”
- Selfish, lacks sacrifice
- Luke 10:31-32
- “Don’t get involved”

# The Law is Not:

- “Don’t do to anyone what you would not want done to you”
- Passive, narrow
- “Do not” religion
- But we are to DO!

# These Won't Work

- “I can see how that if I were that brother living in sin, I would want to be left alone and wouldn't want someone coming to me...so I'll not go to him”
- Galatians 6
- “I'll give him what he deserves, because if I had done what he did, I wouldn't deserve any better either.”

# The law says...

- WHATEVER
- YOU WANT MEN TO DO TO YOU
- DO
- ALSO
- TO THEM



# Interactions & Relationships

- Begins with our thinking and attitude toward others
- Carried out in word and in action
- Includes
  - Doing good toward those who do evil to you
  - Loving those who hate you
  - Blessing and praying for those who curse you and spitefully use you
  - Don't retaliate
  - Give and lend and be generous

# Not easy

- Return good for good? Easy
- Return good for evil? A real test.
- Colossians 3:12-15
- Our Father gives good gifts to us, the undeserving
- Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, despised the shame
- Humbly consider yourself

# Powerful Results

- Be like our Father in heaven
  - Matthew 5:48
- Reward
  - Luke 6:35
- Influence
  - 1 Peter 2:11-12
- Good conscience
  - Acts 24:16; Romans 12:17-21

DEFEAT EVIL WITH GOOD

# All areas of life

- In the home
  - 1 Peter 3:1-7
- On the job
  - Titus 2:9-10
- Personal relationships
  - 1 Corinthians 13:7
- In sickness and in loss
  - James 1:27
- The lost and the erring
- In traffic, at the post office, at the grocery store, at the restaurant

“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

- This rule of conduct restrains us from evil actions and retaliation toward others, while at the same time it demands of us positive action of goodwill toward others.
- It is applicable in every relationship in life.
- Starts in our thinking, our attitude toward others.
- And when we get our thinking, our attitude toward others right, then we must also muster the strength to not go the way of impulse or habit, but to proactively choose the right behavior and DO.