

The Golden Rule

Jesus had an incredible personality. He could speak for hours and people gathered to listen and they did not walk away. They stayed and stayed and stayed. Jesus would become very tired, but he continued to share parables with the people. One such series of parables is found in chapter 7 of Matthew. He tells those listening to not judge others or you will be judged the same way too. He meant that you need to be careful not to be critical of others without a good reason. In I Thessalonians 5:21 we learn that the Christian is to test everything. We need to be able to determine who is doing wrong from who does things right. In Philippians 3:2 we are told to figure out who are the false prophets.

Jesus then tells us to be careful of the sin in our own life before we begin telling other people that they are sinning. We know the word to describe that as being a hypocrite.

Then, in verse 12 Jesus gives us the "Golden Rule." "So, in everything do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the law and the prophets."

Question Time:

1. Do you think about whether or not you have been doing the right thing before you try to tell others about what they are doing?
2. Have you ever told your parents or an adult on someone when you have done something similar or the same?
3. Can you think of something you would like to do for someone else similar to what you would like them to do for you?

Scripture:

Matthew 7:12 "So, in everything do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the law and the prophets."

I Thessalonians 5:21

Philippians 3:2

Next Steps: Talk to your parents about the difference between judging others and being able to determine what is right and wrong.