

APPLYING JESUS' GOLDEN RULE // Luke 6:37-38

from the "Kingdom Life" mini-series within the Gospel of Luke

We continued the discussion of Kingdom Love this week as we learned how to apply the Golden Rule to our lives. The key word that summarizes the application of Kingdom Love is "grace." This week, we were reminded that to understand the totality of the Bible is to understand that God loves us. Our lives ought to be marked by that love, particularly in the way that we reflect it to others. How can we say that God loves someone if we, as His followers, do not also love them?

The thesis of this week's sermon is that disciples of Jesus always seek opportunities to give grace to others in order to bring clarity to the gospel and not confusion. Specifically, we are called to apply Kingdom Love to our lives in order to bring that clarity. Pastor Neal drew our attention to four practical ways that Jesus commands His disciples to live out the Golden Rule.

1. Judge Not

God is patient. We ought to be patient, too, knowing that there is a coming judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).

We are not the judge, and so we need to stand out of God's way (John 5:19-29).

We cannot see in someone else's heart.

2. Condemn Not

"Condemnation" has a finality to it: we are not to write others off because in God, there is always hope (Rom. 8:1).

We cannot condemn because we do not know the end of the story – only God does.

3. Forgive

We are to forgive others because God has forgiven us (Eph. 4:32).

If heaven has forgiven us and the cross has made it right, then we are able to forgive others with a supernatural capacity.

4. Give

We are to give generously because we serve a generous God who has been exceedingly good to us (Eph. 1:3).

Earthly human generosity will be reflected by divine generosity from God. Our lives will metaphorically be a container that will be filled to the brim and overflow with blessings.

Not only are we called to love others with Kingdom Love, but we are equipped to do so because we have been loved by God in this same way – with grace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus is clearly against us passing judgment on others. How might we combat our sinful tendency to sit on a throne of superiority and jump to conclusions about others?
2. What does this passage/sermon tell us about God's love? What does this mean for us, as followers of Christ?
3. Why do you think Jesus commands us to forgive others? To give generously to others?