



Impact Your World

Jesus and the Sermon on the Mount

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

— Matthew 7:24 —

LESSON SEVEN

IMPACT YOUR WORLD Hypocrisy and the Golden Rule

DISCUSSION QUESTION

“If we are commanded not to judge others, how are we to make good choices about relationships with others?”

LESSON

Impact Your World: Hypocrisy and the Golden Rule

1. Judging (vss. 1-5)
2. Discerning (v. 6)
3. Trusting (vss. 7-11)
4. Treating (v. 12)



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Matthew 7:1-12

1 “Do not judge so that you will not be judged.

2 For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

3 Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye?

5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

6 “Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

9 Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone?

10 Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he?

11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!

12 “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.



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Wisdom from Charles Swindoll

“Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matt. 7:2). That single sentence is perhaps the most famous statement Jesus ever made. It is the “Everest of Ethics,” as one man put it. In some ways it is the cornerstone of true Christianity, certainly the capstone of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount.

I appreciate the positive emphasis. Instead of saying, “Don’t do this,” He says, “Do this.” If you have wondered about how to get started in a lifetime of simple faith, here it is.

The principle? Modeling must accompany our message.

You want to be forgiven? Forgive.

You need affirmation? Affirm.

You feel hurt, wounded, broken, and could stand a gentle touch? Be gentle with others.

You have discovered the value of tact when something sensitive needed to be addressed? Be tactful.

The examples are endless. Unfortunately, models of such greathearted behavior are rare. Is it any wonder the non-Christian world looks with suspicion in our direction?

The best part of the whole principle? It is so simple. Living by the Golden Rule prevents the need for laying down an endless list of little rules and regulations to govern conduct. Just put yourself in the other person’s place and think, What is it I would need if I were him or her? And then? Do it. When you do, you will fulfill the essence of “the Law and the Prophets.”

Do you know the greatest message we can deliver? It is the message of Christ-like character. No message on earth is more needed or more powerful.

You want to impact your family, your church, your community, your place of employment? You want to make a difference in the life of your mate, a family member, a friend (Christian or not), some person in the workplace? Demonstrate the characteristics of Christ.

It has been said that the only Bible most folks ever read is the daily life of the Christian. If that is true, I believe the world needs a revised version. Our problem is not that too many of us are being ignored; it’s that we are all being observed!

Words fitly spoken are powerful, but they are nothing compared to the power of a life fitly lived.