

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, Nov. 14, 2021

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 53. God’s Straightedge – Matthew 7:12

Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: Therefore – this verse goes all the way back to Matt. 7:1. In the context of judging rightly, and seeing how God deals with us – “Ask, seek, knock” – as He gives us good gifts (that we don’t deserve), now we see how we are to interact with others. Do to them what we would have them do to us.

Keep in mind: Lloyd-Jones tells us that “All the clashes and disturbances and unhappiness in life are due to this – what I want and what the other person wants.” It is a battle of selfish desires.

- I. This is the Law and Prophets – Lev. 19:18; Zech. 8:17; Matt. 22:39; Rom. 13:9-10; Gal. 5:14; James 2:8
 - A. Love the Lord Your God
 - B. Love Your Neighbor
 - 1. Put yourself in their place
 - 2. Then treat them as you would like to be treated
 - 3. CHS Quote #1
- II. An Impossible Standard
 - A. History, Religion, and Ethics
 - 1. Negative - “Do not do to others what you don’t want done to you.”
 - 2. Jesus’ teaching is positive...Do to others, not do not do to others
 - B. Morality – Boice Quote #2
 - C. If We Could Just Keep the Law – Phil. 2:3
 - 1. Honor your mother and father – honor – Rom. 13:7; 1 Pet. 2:17
 - 2. Don’t Murder – hate and anger – Matt. 5:21-26, 43-48
 - 3. Don’t commit adultery – lust – 1 John 2:16; Rom. 13:14; Gal. 5:16
 - 4. Don’t steal – greed – Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 6:10
 - 5. Don’t lie – deception – Col. 3:9; James 3:14
 - 6. Don’t covet – idolatry of self, the rule of what I want – Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5
- III. A Standard that Condemns
 - A. All Natural Goodness is Condemned - Rom. 3:20 (see Phillips)
 - 1. Looking at others, not self
 - 2. We don’t naturally focus on others
 - B. New Birth is Required for Obedience – 1 Cor. 2:14; Rom. 8:7-8 – MLJ Quote #3
- IV. Start with God
 - A. A Fallen Man Starts with Self
 - B. A Redeemed Man Starts with God – 1 John 2:3-6, 9-11; 3:18
 - 1. Love God – 1 John 4:17-21
 - 2. Love Your Neighbor – 1 John 4:7-11
 - C. Look at Others like God looks at You, through His Son

CHS Quote #1 – “Oh, that men acted on it, and then there would be no slavery, no war, no striking, no lying, no robbing, but all would be justice and love.”

Boice Quote #2 – “The true nature of morality is focusing our minds on the needs, cares, loves, joys, hopes, and dreams of other people.”

MLJ Quote #3 – “Our Lord did not preach the Sermon on the Mount in order that you and I might comment on it, but in order that we might carry it out.”

Cross References

Leviticus 19:18

18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Zechariah 8:17

17 Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; And do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate,' Says the Lord."

Matthew 22:39

39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Romans 13:9-10

9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Galatians 5:14

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

James 2:8

8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well;

Philippians 2:3

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Romans 13:7

7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

1 Peter 2:17

17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

Matthew 5:21-26

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the

council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. 23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. 26 Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

Matthew 5:43-48

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

1 John 2:16

16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

Romans 13:14

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Galatians 5:16

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Ephesians 4:28

28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

1 Timothy 6:10

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Colossians 3:9

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

James 3:14

14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

Ephesians 5:3

3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

Colossians 3:5

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Romans 3:20

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:20 (JB Phillips NT)

No man can justify himself before God by a perfect performance of the Law's demands—indeed it is the straight-edge of the Law that shows us how crooked we are.

1 Corinthians 2:14

14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Romans 8:7-8

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.
8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

1 John 2:3-6

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

1 John 2:9-11

9 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. 10 He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

1 John 3:18

18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

1 John 4:17-21

17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 19 We love Him because He first loved us. 20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

1 John 4:7-11

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

New King James Version (NKJV)

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.