

the Venues

Go Deep

The Jesus Way

What Does Jesus Say About The Way?

Matthew 7:12-23

January 31, 2016

If you had to summarize your life or philosophy of life in six words, what would they be?

Matthew 7:12 is Jesus' answer to that question. Take a look at it.

It all comes down to this.

Read Matthew 28:19-20

How is the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) connected to Matthew 28:19-20?

What is the longest piece of literature you ever memorized?

It's like Jesus is saying "You'll never remember all the details of the sermon, but you can remember the Golden Rule."

Did you know that other religions have a version of the Golden Rule? What do you think about that? What does that shared ethic say about what matters?

Think of the ways you want to be treated. Now go treat others that way.

How would we apply the Golden Rule to every detail of our lives and relations with others?

What difference would it make if everyone lived by the Golden Rule?

2. *Who wants to go this way?*

How does Jesus answer that question? Check out Matthew 7:13-14

Why is the "Jesus Way" as described in the Sermon on the Mount and the Golden Rule summary not very crowded?

Glance through the Sermon on the Mount and see what attitudes and behaviors Jesus expects from his followers.

For instance: Look at Matthew 5:38-48.

Who really wants to live like that?

Read Matthew 7:15-23

What is Jesus saying?

How do these verses connect with Matthew 7:12-14?

Do you think these verses are meant to scare us, comfort us, or something else entirely?

How would you describe "the Jesus way" based on this passage?

What is your "take away" from this lesson? How will life be different because of this lesson?

Golden Rule in other Religions

HINDUISM (13th CENTURY B.C.)

“Do not do to others what you do not wish done to yourself. This is the sole Dharma. Heed it well” (The Mahabharata).

JUDAISM (13th CENTURY B.C.)

“What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor; that is the entire Torah; the rest is commentary; go learn it” (The Babylonian Talmud).

ZOROASTRIANISM (12th CENTURY B.C.)

“Human nature is good only when it does not do unto another whatever is not good for its own self” (The Dadistan-i-Dinik).

BUDDHISM (6th CENTURY B.C.)

“Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful” (The Tibetan Dhammapada).

CONFUCIANISM (6th CENTURY B.C.)

“Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself” (Confucius, Analects).

ISLAM (7th CENTURY A.D.)

“No one of you is a believer until you desire for another that which you desire for yourself” (“The Sunnah,” from The Hadith).

SOPRANOISM (21st CENTURY)

“Whack the next guy with the same respect you’d like to be whacked with, you know” (Tony, Episode 12)?