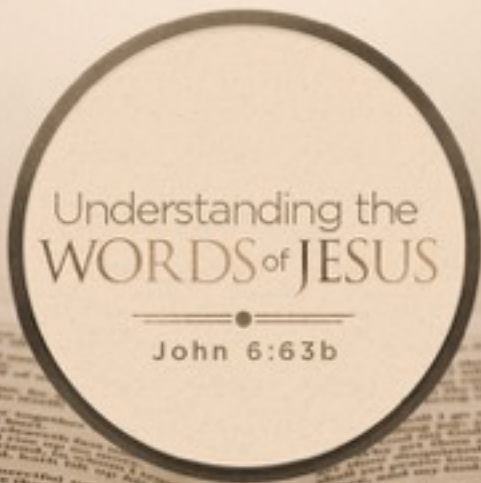


# A MOTIVE FOR PERSEVERANCE (9-11)



**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!**

# GOD DELIGHTS TO GIVE GOOD THINGS TO HIS CHILDREN...

To illustrate, Jesus gives a simple argument  
(from the lesser to the greater)

men give good gifts to their children who ask

How much more so, will our Father in heaven!

Jesus stressed this Fatherly attribute of God in  
His sermon

In regards to our physical necessities -

Mt 6:31-32

And now in regards to things that are good for  
us - Mt 7:11

## Matthew 6:31-32

31 Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' 32 For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

## Matthew 7:11

**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!**

# THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN REGARDS TO PRAYER!

As Jesus promised to His disciples in  
**John 15:7**

Which assumes we know His will for us  
(His word is abiding in us) And as James  
wrote in **James 4:3**. Presuming we are not  
asking for personal and selfish gain. But  
many do not enjoy God's favor, simply  
because they do not ask!

## John 15:7

**7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.**

Conditioned upon our abiding in Him.  
Conditioned upon His words abiding in us.

As the apostle John wrote in 1John 5:14-15  
Conditioned upon our asking according  
to His will.



## 1 John 5:14-15

14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

Which assumes we know His will for us  
(His word is abiding in us) And as James  
wrote in **James 4:3**.

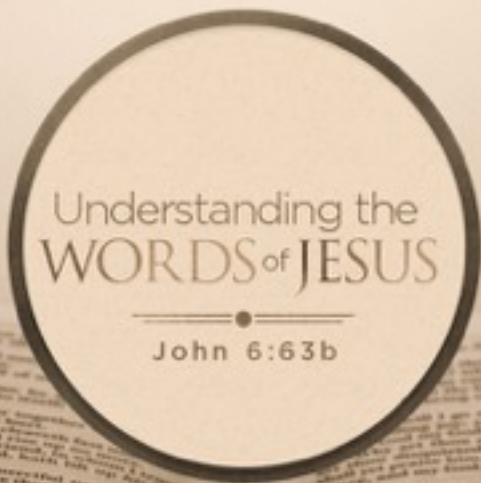
Presuming we are not asking for personal  
and selfish gain. But many do not enjoy  
God's favor, simply because they do not ask!

## James 4:3

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

To persevere, then, is a noble virtue,  
especially in regards to prayer...

We have a Father in heaven who is not  
untouched by the persistent pleas of His  
children. Providing we do not ask amiss,  
persistent prayers will not go unanswered!



If we desire to receive, find, and have doors opened to us, then let us...

- a. Keep on asking
- b. Keep on seeking
- c. Keep on knocking

...not only in regards to prayer, but in all ventures worthy of Christians ( Bible study, evangelism ect.)!





**Have you ever found yourself in a situation...**

**Faced with the need to make a decision on the spur of the moment?**

**Wondering what is the right way to act?**

**Unable to recall whether the Bible specifically addresses the moral dilemma in which you find yourself?**

**In His sermon on the mount, Jesus  
provided a helpful tool in such a  
situation...**

**A quick and easy way to know what to do**

**Something that is easy to remember It is  
found in Mt 7:12, and is commonly called  
"The Golden Rule"...**



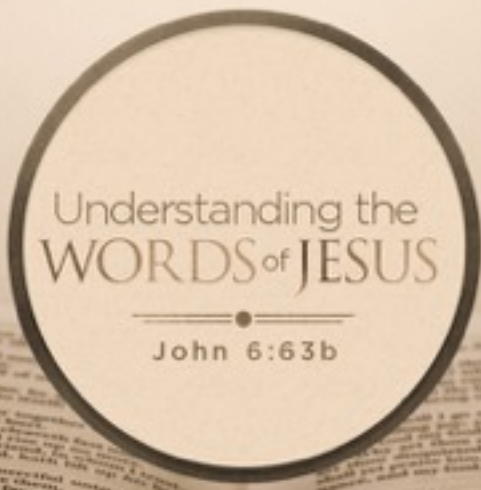
# The Golden Rule (7:12)

Matthew 7:12

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



# THE "GOLDEN" RULE VS. THE "SILVER" RULES



Understanding the  
WORDS of JESUS

John 6:63b

### 1. The HINDU religion taught:

This is the sum of duty: do naught to others which if done to thee would cause thee pain. - The Mahabharata

### 2. The BUDDHIST religion taught:

Hurt not others with that which pains yourself. - Udana-Varga

### 3. The JEWISH traditions taught:

What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow men. That is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary. - The Talmud

4. The MUSLIM religion taught:

No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself. - Hadith

5. The BAHA'I faith teaches:

He should not wish for others that which he doth not wish for himself, nor promise that which he doth not fulfill. - The Book of Certitude

## **Some other sources:**

**Do not that to thy neighbor that thou wouldst not suffer from him. - Pittacus of Lesbos (650-570 BC)**

**What you do not want others to do to you, do not do to others. - Confucius (551-479 BC)**

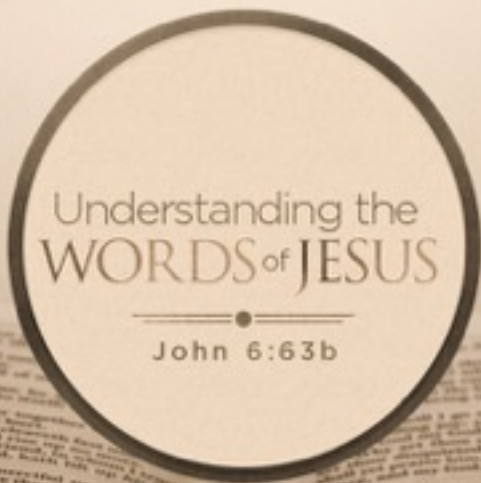
**Do not do unto others what angers you if done to you by others. - Isocrates (436-338 BC)**

"Tzu-kung asked, 'Is there a single word which can be a guide to conduct throughout one's life?' The Master said, 'It is perhaps the word "shu". Do not impose on others what you yourself do not desire.' Analects, 15.24

Treat your inferiors as you would be treated by your betters. - Seneca (4 BC-AD 65)

# JESUS' "RULE" WAS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT...

Jesus requires you to do something favorably to others, while the others only prohibit you from doing something unfavorably to others!



Understanding the  
WORDS of JESUS

John 6:63b

**Jesus:** Do unto others what you want them  
to do to you

**Others:** Don't do to others what you  
don't want done to you

**Note the difference...**

With the others, all that is required is that  
you don't harm other people

With Jesus, what is required is that you  
show kindness to others



Jesus' rule is truly the "Golden" rule

The others are "Silver" rules

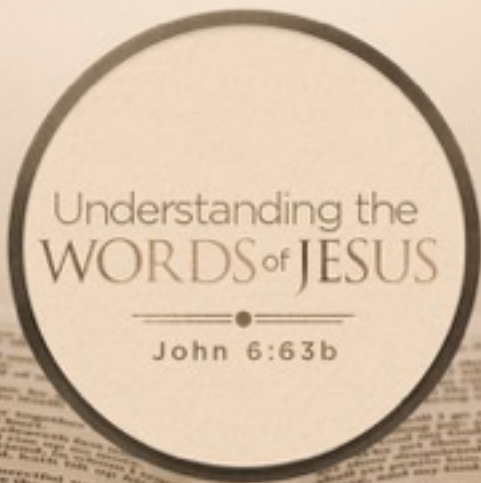
Of value, yes, but not as much as "gold"

The only ones that come close to teaching exactly what Jesus taught was:

That found in Hadith, the traditions of Islam; but then, much of Islam is based upon what Jesus taught 600 years before Mohammed

That stated by Seneca, who lived about the same time as Christ

# A GUIDELINE FOR RIGHTEOUS CONDUCT TOWARDS OTHERS



# ONE IN HARMONY WITH THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS...

As we have seen earlier in the sermon (Mt. 5:20-48) Jesus taught a standard of righteousness that contrasted with that of the scribes and Pharisees. But it was in harmony with what the Law actually revealed. This one "rule" summarizes what the Law and the Prophets were all about. Just as the commandment "Love your neighbor as yourself" summed up the Law according to Paul - Ro 13:8-10.

## Matthew 5:20-48

20 “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. 21 “You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not commit murder’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’

**22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell. 23**

**Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,**

**24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. 25 Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. 26 Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent.**

27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; 28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

**30 If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell. 31 “It was said, ‘Whoever sends his wife away, let him give her a certificate of divorce’; 32 but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.**



33 “Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord.’ 34 But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 But let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’; anything beyond these is of evil.

38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’

39 But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40

If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. 41

Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

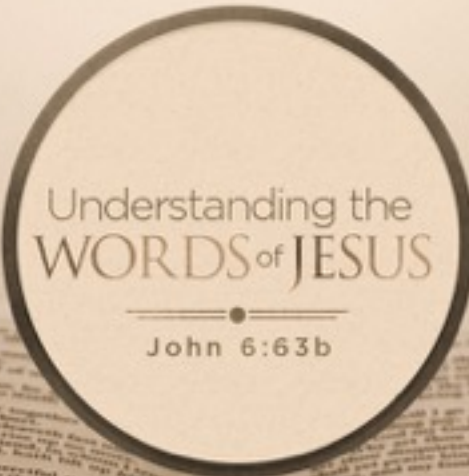
43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

**46 For if you love those who love you,  
what reward do you have? Do not even the  
tax collectors do the same? 47 If you greet  
only your brothers, what more are you  
doing than others? Do not even the  
Gentiles do the same? 48 Therefore you  
are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father  
is perfect.**

## Romans 13:8-10

8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. 9 For this, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

# SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW TO APPLY THIS "RULE"



## IN TEACHING THE LOST...

Imagine what it must be like to be told you are wrong, or in sin. Wouldn't you want to be told in a loving and patient spirit?

As you would have others try to persuade you to change to be more Christ like, so treat those you seek to convert -

**2Tim 2:24-26; Ep 4:15**

## 2 Timothy 2:24-26

24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.



## Ephesians 4:15

15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

## IN CORRECTING ONE ANOTHER...

No one likes to have their mistakes, errors, etc., pointed out

When necessary, wouldn't we prefer to be approached with a meek and patient spirit?

As you would have others offer you constructive criticism, so give it to them -

Ga 6:1-2

## Galatians 6:1-2

6 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

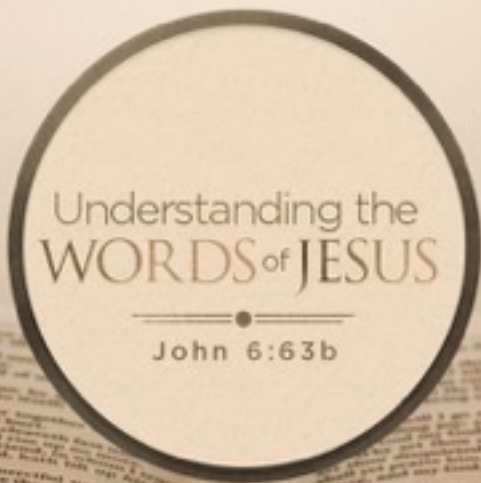
**IN TREATING OUR FAMILY(Church also),  
NEIGHBORS, ENEMIES... Everyone likes to  
have loving families, good neighbors, and no  
enemies. Applying the golden rule will not  
only transform ourselves, but may also  
transform those around us Sibling rivalry  
would cease**

**Neighborly squabbles would be non-existent**

**Enemies would become friends**

**Don't limit the application of the Golden  
Rule to religious matters!**

"The Golden Rule would reconcile capital and labor, all political contention and uproar, all selfishness and greed."



**Such would be the impact on our society if  
more followed Jesus' words**

**But let's start close to home, and let the  
Golden Rule transform our own lives and  
those closest to us!**

**"We have committed the Golden Rule to memory; let us now commit it to life."**

**This reflects what is true with most people; they know the rule, but don't live by it**

**If Jesus is truly our Lord, then His "golden rule" will govern our life!**