Matthew 7:12

I was a young teen from a non-religious family. We believed in God, but that belief was not accompanied by any church attendance. “God doesn’t want you to hit your little sister” was about as deep as it got. But we were avid outdoorsmen and we got the annual hunting, fishing, camping catalogue from Herter’s, a popular mail order source for outdoor gear.

Each catalogue had something printed at the top of the front cover, over the title, “Herter’s.” It simply said “Matthew 7:12.” I don’t recall how I knew that was a Bible verse, but my curiosity lead me to look it up in the pocket-sized New Testament the public school gave to each Dallas student. (Yes, the public schools routinely gave free Bibles to each student, in every public school at every grade level. And it came with a 12-inch Coca Cola ruler that had the “Golden Rule” printed on it, whatever that was.

What I found in Matthew 7:12 in my little free Bible (that I had never read) was a verse that would make more practical difference on earth that any other single passage, **“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets,”** (King James Version). The New American Standard Bible renders the verse, **“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”**

Imagine, if you will, a world in which every person treats every other person exactly how they would want others to treat them. No violence, no theft, no fraud, no crime! (The lock smiths would all need to find another profession - no one would need keys to protect their possessions from theft. My maternal grandmother quoted “the Golden Rule” to us all time, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” I thought it was *granny wisdom* - who knew it was directly from the Bible?

From goods to services, from actions to attitudes, the Golden Rule would literally change the practical ways the world does business and the ways people process daily relationships. Notice there is no stated limit here - the verse applies to our daily relationships with everyone, everywhere, all the time. What a joy it is to serve in a church family that both understands and applies this precious passage.

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