

## Melva's Corner



### A Golden Lifestyle

March 26, 2007

(Matthew 7:12)

**Central Truth: The Golden Rule is supposed to become my daily lifestyle all the time. It must become your lifestyle, too!**

**In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. (Matthew 7:12 NRS).**

Most of us have done this at one time or another. We're reading a very familiar passage of Scripture and something jumps off the page at us. It's been there all along, but we just haven't seen it . . . at least not with the clarity that we suddenly see it this time.

This happened to me recently when reading Jesus' words known as The Golden Rule. For some reason, I hadn't really noticed the two word phrase, "**in everything.**" Wow! How did I miss this point all these years?

As I read The Golden Rule recently, the Lord confronted me to step up and live The Golden Rule in a much bigger way. I'm supposed to practice this principle "in everything . . ." Not practice it here or there, or do it when it is easy to do, but I'm to do it . . . "in everything"!

Think of all the places this "in everything" perspective impacts. It impacts how I must treat waiters, waitresses, counter people at the grocery store, department store clerks, neighbors, telemarketers, people on the freeway, my family, folks who are rude . . . on and on I could go. "In everything" means that The Golden Rule is supposed to become my daily lifestyle all the time. It must become your lifestyle, too!

The Golden Rule! That's what it's called, but Jesus isn't as concerned that we know the "rule" as much as He is that we live the "golden life." In many ways, this concept of doing for others

what we would want done for us summarizes Jesus' teaching to His disciples about how to live for others. It also captures the spirit of the Old Testament Law and the teaching of the prophets. In other words, living to bless others is God's will for us in all of our relationships. We are not here just to live for ourselves, but to bless others in the name of Jesus. This kind of life is transformational. God can use it in ways we would never anticipate to touch the lives of others.

Jesus' great heart beat on this earth for some thirty-three years. Every beat was a beat of compassion. Every beat was big enough to love the whole world. And when on that old, splintered, blood-stained cross that great heart transitioned, it only paused until it beat again in the Resurrection. Then Jesus' great heart began to beat in the apostles, and in the early church, and in each and every person who saw God in Jesus. And that heart can beat in you and in me. And that's my secret! And now your secret too!

So let's get after it! Let's have this principle of Jesus invade all areas of our lives, and let's begin right where we are, today. Where are some places you need to let this principle of Jesus impact your behavior more? I'd love to hear from you because what you find in your life that needs to be changed by this principle is a place where most of need to make a change, too. Let's share the secret!

**Prayer:**

Almighty God, help me focus less on my needs and my desires. Instead Father, please help me hear the heart cry of those around me and then use me to serve them in your name and do for them what I would want done for me. In the precious name of the Jesus I pray. Amen.

**Scriptural References:**

**"Teacher, which command in the law is the most important? You must love the Lord your God. You must love him with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and most important command. And the second command is like the first: You must love other people the same as you love yourself."**

**Matthew 22:36-39 (ERV)**