

J. Roy - June 5, 193 AM
(Graduates)

"MAKING A LIFE"

Matthew 7:12

In our land today, we have the beautiful sight of a large company of students. Prime Minister of Britain many years ago said, "the most welcome and glorious sight one could ever see in the country - was a great group of well-trained young people." We find that renewed heart and hope are given us by the sight of a large company of students. They, today, are going out from our institutions. They will have to learn the value of time. They will have to wisely discover the right kind of habits. And they will pay the right kind of price. Or, life.

An old Troy General said, the secret of every victory is in getting good and ready.

And old French soldier said, battles are won the day before. And we remember, Wellington, his statement on the Battle of Waterloo. This battle was won not on the battlefield. But where contending armies met in deadly combat. But on the campus of Oxford, Cambridge, and Eton. So we welcome the students today who will be responsible for the nation tomorrow.

Making a life will part of your responsibility.

There is a question - not how to make a living? - but how to make a life? Making a living is a mere incident in life. When we think of things that are important. Making a life is the primary meaning and mission. Of all of your earthly travels. The highest and the best contribution which you can make to your generation is the gift of a well-rounded and worthy life.

Ten righteous men would have turned the Bible back from the gate in ancient Sodom.

There are certain principles that you must be faithful too - and that you must regard. And the business of making a life is a consideration of service. By their fruits, ye shall know them. The one great ideal spoken of in the life of Jesus. And of those who followed him - "who went about doing good." One good example is worth thousands of arguments. We vindicate our faith in the realm of business, literature, and religion. Jesus, one time said, why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things that I say.

As we witness Moses of the Old Testament and Paul of the New Testament, we think of those men who knew how to make a life. They had some rules by which they based life.

The Lawyer asked Jesus a clever question -- who is my neighbor? And the answer was in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Anybody, everybody, anywhere, and everywhere who needs help.

Jesus completely reversed the common standards for the greatness of men, in the world in his day.

There were men that felt that physical strength was it. Hercules was fairly worshipped. And that great doctrine, that might will make things right. Those who could kill the most people, would be the most valuable people. But we are not here to destroy civilization. Men must learn to beat their swords into plowshears.

And their spears into pruning hooks. The world also in Jesus time had an idea about financial greatness. That this is the fabric of the country. But the true greatness of the country comes back to standards, laws, and rules that are made up of moral and spiritual values.

Even in business, men need rules, laws, and standards. I was amused of reading about an artist who was employed to restore the great oil painting of an old church in Belgium. He sent a bill for \$67.30. The church warden required that he itemize the bill. And so he duely presented, audited, and paid the bill.

Correcting The Ten Commandments - \$5.12.

Restoring Heaven and adjusting stars - \$7.14.

Touching up Pergatory and restoring lost souls - \$3.06.

Brightening up the flames of Hell and putting new tails on the Devil and doing odd jobs for the Damned - \$7.16.

Putting a new stone in David's sling and enlarging the head of Golaith - \$6.13.

Mending the shirt of the Prodigal Son and cleaning his ear - \$3.39

Adding glamour to Pontius Pilate and putting new ribbon in his bonnet - \$3.02.

Putting a new tail and comb on St. Peter's rooster - \$2.20.

Washing the servant of the High Priest - and putting coloring on his cheek - \$5.02
Taking spots off the son of Tobias - \$10.30.
Putting ear rings in Sarah's ears - \$5.26.
Decorating Noah's ark, new head on Shem - \$4.31.

Total - \$67.30

And so because of the standard and the rules of the old warden, the artist measured up to them.

Now (if) a man is going to make a life - he will need some rules to go by. And he will need something beyond physical and financial. He will need something like Tennyson had. . . when he wrote "Crossing The Bar". That contributed more than the building of a thousand ocean liners.

So here is a (standard) that we need to discover if we are going to build a life.

I. EXPLAINING THE RULE

I have chosen a rule today that could not be brought in human wisdom. Or provided by an revelation of man on human conduct. But it contains the text, that at a single glance, it will result in your intercourse with one another with the world, and with your happiness, and all of your future.

I have found a rule that is called "Golden" that sums up what is your conduct -

as applied to a Christian, in this world. It is the maximum - here is the mainspring. To put yourself in the place of others. To forfeit advantages over other people. And what you condemn in others, you are now going to condemn in yourself.

Let us look at this remarkable statement - and examine it in all parts.

All things whatsoever - this clause declares that it is universal in extent. It is not only a rule that will regulate merely (some) parts of our conduct, toward our fellowmen. But all parts of it.

Now we may do somethings, perhaps, many things to others. Which we would wish them to do to us. Yet, in many other things, be completely selfish.

A man might, for example, give a poor man food when he is hungry. And then make it a habit to defraud the poor man and take away what he has. And break the rule. The language of our Lord says, all things, whatsoever.

Let it be settled in any one thing, whatsoever that you would, that men should do it to you. And you are required so to do for them.

There is no exception - (all) things whatsoever.

Even so to them. Now this means - (not some men). This does not mean, that this is

the way I act towards some of my friends. This is not just your family. This is not your very closest acquaintance. This is to them - to men. It does not matter who he is. If he is a friend, or if he is an enemy. If he is a fellow creature - this is to be the rule.

Do ye even so. Now this clause we're directed not only to do the things themselves, that we would, that others should do to us. But also, to the utmost exactness in doing so. Do ye even so. Do exactly these things.

Nothing less than this is allowed. All of this is required.

Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you. Now this is an important part of this rule. Because it is by what we would that others should do to us. If we are to determine what we are to do to them.

Before we act, we must in every instant inquire - what would we that another should do to us.

Now I know that some people - suppose that a literal interpretation of this text is inconsistent. Maybe with other plain scriptural duties. There ought to be certain qualifications or restrictions imposed. For our desire, good for others may be selfish and extravagant. Or forbidden.

But we cannot take inadequate views of this text. The rule contains its own

This rule is like a carpenter - hauling around in his pocket a three-foot rule.
When he is at his work - he pulls it out - he estimates. He sees whether or not this
is what it measures up to be.

This is one of the most universal things and famous things that Jesus ever said.

Right in the completing part of the Sermon on the Mount, he reaches up to Mt
Mitchell, or skyland. This saying of Jesus is the top most peak (for building a life).
There is no real parallel to it. It is not something that some folks have said before.
This is a new teaching. This is a new obligation. Now the heathen people - they had
some kind of rules - but their rule said, what is hateful to yourself, do to the other
person. Now Jesus says, you go and you learn. Not this negative side but the positive
side.

Now even the rabbi's sometimes talked about honoring their friends that were
dear to them. But this does not approach what Jesus said. There was no practice of
this. By the stoics or by others. No one but Jesus ever put this in a positive form.
And no voice had ever said do to others as you would then have them to do to you.

Now this is very demanding for making a life. And this is not just a negative
thing - to say that you will refrain from certain actions or doing certain things.
But this is a positive thing. It says that you must do this.

On the highway, we have laws that you have to drive by. Your car, so that you will
not injure somebody else. Now, no law can really compel you to do all that you ought to

do out there. Without hurting or injuring somebody. But here is a new attitude - a new message. That Jesus is bringing. And he is the only one who could bring this within the heart. He is saying - you will try to forgive, as you would wish to be forgiven. You will try to help - as you would desire someone to help you. You will praise the other person. As you would wish to be praised. You will understand the other person - as you would wish to be understood. And you will never avoid doing these things that you would like to have done unto you. This will be your dominate way of life.

*Jesus Not Telling: The Lord helps those who help themselves!
 Nothing succeeds like success -
 Leopards can change their spots -
 As the Twig is bent, so falls the branch -*

✓ II. WHY YOU SHOULD USE THIS GOLDEN RULE

I have said a few things about what it means and the depth of it - and how clear it is. Now let us think of the reasonableness of it. And why you should use it and why you should practice it.

✓ / ✓ First, God has commanded it. This duty is enjoyed and enjoined in the form of a command. It is very sacred in the law.

Take for example Lev. 19:18. "Thou shalt not avenge or bear any grudge against the children of thy people. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." And then see what Paul has to say in Gal. 5:14. "For all the law is fulfilled in one word. Even in this - thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." So God has commanded this. It is not to be just something to be praised. But it is meant to be practiced. And our Lord did not preach this Sermon on the Mount in order that we might just comment on it. But that we might carry it out. And the man who hears these sayings and these commands - and the man who will do them - will be like the person who built his house on a rock. The man who

Why is it so that we disregard the command of God and this reasonable obligation. We are so bound by evil - that we cannot keep the Golden Rule. Did you know that the Gospel always starts with that. Did you know the first principle of theology is the fall of man - the sin of man. It can be put like this. Man does not implement the Golden Rule. Which is a summary of the law and the prophets. But his whole attitude toward the law is wrong. Man does not like the law - in fact, he hates the law. The carnal, natural mind, is against God. And cannot be subject to God. So it is useless to hold the law up before such people. They hate the law and they do not want it. Of course, they can sit back in an arm chair and listen to some abstract statements about life.

This is reasonable. This rule is reasonable because it applies to everyone.

✓ 3- Third, this rule will promote happiness. Did you know some of the greatest portions of human misery today and suffering that people go through - is due to people disobeying this principle. It is a universal principle. Did you know this would cut out jealousy. Contention in families. Animosity in neighborhoods. Depression. Injustice. It would cut out drunkenness. Ludeness, gambling, etc. Why, all men would be friends. There would be universal justice. Truth - goodness - gentleness - kindness. Forgiveness. And this world would be filled with a whole new atmosphere. But it would be blessed. And it would really be more happy, than it could share. If you have happiness - you want to share it, with someone else.

The whole thing can be brought down to one word - self. Our Lord expresses it

saying, that we should love our neighbors as ourselves. And that is the one thing that we do not do. And do not want to do - because we love self so much in the wrong way. We do not do unto others as we would wish them to do unto us. The whole time we are thinking about only ourselves. And we never transfer our thoughts to the other person. That is, in other words, the condition of man in sin - as the result of the fall - is entirely self-centered. He thinks of nothing. And no one but himself.

I guess it is by human nature that we are all self-centered. And we are resentful about this rule. And we dislike God because God is someone who is not self-centered. So we have a failure to live by this.

4 Fourth, this rule would develop a great character in your life. It will help you to make a life. Why, because it is the opposite of selfishness. This would swing you over on the (side of Jesus). And there would be an eternal resemblance and distinction as you would remove the garb and unmask your affections, your wishes, your plans, your actions.

5 Fifth, if you do not follow this rule - you will not be fit, nor will you be admitted, into Heaven. The Word of God is no less clear here. Be not deceived says the Apostle. And he repeated every act of selfishness when he said - neither fornicators, idolators, adulterers, abusers of themselves with mankind, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners. Nor they that do such things shall inherit the Kingdom of God.

At the same time, on every page of the Scripture, the necessity to be fit for Heaven

is joined to the principle of holiness. Without which a man cannot see God. How is it possible for anyone to implement the Golden Rule. How can our attitude and conduct ever conform to what the Lord has said here. The answer of the Gospel is, you must start with God.

*Geo Wash Carter - Big Day Behold, what will God show me?
one day he was holding a sweet potato
Tushigea entitled it - See sampler 118 things did with G.P.
Pechell - began with God.*

What is the greatest Commandment - it is this. // Thou shalt love the Lord Thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy mind, with all thy strength, and the second - like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. //

You notice the order - you do not start with your neighbor. You do not start with this Golden Rule. You start with God. And your relationship in the world will never be right - whether between individuals or groups, or nations - until you start with God. You cannot love your neighbor as yourself, until you love God. You will never see yourself as your neighbor - until you are first able to get sight of God.

Now we have tried to put these things in order. We must start with God. If we are going to make a life. We begin to see ourselves as sinners. We begin to feel that we have no rights before God. No man can really come into the presence of God without saying - that I am unclean. We are all unclean. The knowledge of this humbles us into the dust.

There is no need to try to protect yourself any longer about your unworthiness. You must see yourself as the Gods of this world as sin.

When we look to God, we realize something about the truth of Him. We are conscious that God never deals with us according to what we deserve. That is not God's method. What man is there of you, or person - whom if he has a son, has bread and will give him a stone.

If ye then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more your Father which is in Heaven, will give good things to those that ask him. That is the argument. God does not give us what we deserved. God gives us good things in spite of what we are. Were he to do so, we would all be condemned. If God saw us only as we are, every one of us, we would be utterly condemned.

So, we have this wonderful Golden Rule by which you can prepare. And how striking that this is a rule of Christ. It is a direct violation of all of the things of this earth.

But this rule will help you in your general conduct towards your fellow men. And this rule, you must receive with the Gospel, and we all need a Saviour. And I appeal to each of you today - according to the law and the prophets. Have you ever been rescued from the spirit of sin. He has planned for your everyday life. Just one chance have we on the earthly life. It will soon be gone. The supreme matter of the earthly life is to find and to follow the will of Christ. Remember, we must everyone ask the question of Pilate - what shall I do with Jesus. We must be for him or against him. We must be his friend or his foe. We must be obeying or disobeying.

I read of a college student some years ago, who spent a whole night with sleeplessness. Over this same issue. He thought very wisely about that message of Jesus - you are my friends, you will do whatsoever I command you. So he wisely yielded his soul to the

Saviour. And he said, I gladly follow ~~Christ~~. It was a fateful night for that student.
And he ~~wrote this poem~~.

When I met the Master

I had walked life's way with an easy tread
Had followed where comforts and pleasures led
Until one day in a quiet place,
I met the Master face to face.

With station and rank and wealth for my goal
Much thought for my body, but none for my soul
I had entered to win in life's big race
When I met the Master face to face.

I had built my castles and reared them high
With their towers that pierced the blue of the sky
I had sworn to rule with an iron mace
When I met the Master face to face.

I met him and knew him and blushed to see
That his eyes full of sorrow were fixed on me
And I faltered and fell at his feet that day
While my castles melted and vanished away.

Melted and vanished and in their place
None else did I see but the Master's face
And I cried aloud, o make me meek

To follow the steps of Thy wounded feet

My thought is now for the souls of men
I have lost my life, to find it again
Ever since that day in a quiet place
When I met the Master face to face.

Who hears his call today to follow him. Who will answer that call voicing your personal committment to Christ, as your Saviour and your Lord. Joshua's resolution is the right one for all of us. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Is it in your heart to be fixed with that resolve. Do you not hear him call, follow me. Practice my rule. Are you willing to begin to follow him now. Will your chose him this hour to be your personal Saviour and Master. He will be with you now and through the future.