**THE GOLDEN RULE (January 28, 2024 - OR): Matthew 7:12: “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”** [Treat others the way you want to be treated]

* When brethren are doing well **[John 3:26-30 (29), Romans 12:15] –** We should be happy when others are successful. We have many who have been recently married, received promotions or new and better jobs, or new homes. Many have had babies. We have had many obey the gospel! Let us all freely rejoice with one another!
* When I disagree with a brother or sister **(Acts 7:1-4, Hebrews 3:12-13, Galatians 6:1) –** Let us reason together in love for the Lord and for each other.
* When brethren are struggling (bear one another’s burdens) **(Galatians 6:2, 10, Acts 4:32-35, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, James 5:16, Colossians 2:11-14) –** Share, help, pray, and remind – We all need to be encouraged! This was brought up in a recent devotional on the book of Colossians.
* How do I treat my neighbors? **(Leviticus 19:18, Luke 10:29, 37, Romans 13:9-10)**
* How do I treat my co-workers or classmates? **(Philippians 2:1-11)** – Look out for the interests of others!
* What about family? Can family be annoying? Spouses, parents, kids, relatives? [unplug razor for curling iron(now it makes me happy when I see it unplugged) / My son Dan recently had to chastise my twin granddaughters to go to sleep. He asked them how many more times will he need to come in to them. One of my granddaughters said 4-5.] **(Colossians 3:18-21)** – Applying the golden rule can get challenging when stress is high, kids are struggling, during financial challenges, when one has sinned, etc.?

***\*In these times we need to remember the golden rule and put ourselves in each other’s shoes.***

* How do I treat my enemies? **(Luke 6:27-36 (31), Romans 12:18-21)** – Overcome evil with good! (Kate)
* When we meet those who need the salvation of Jesus? If we were not a disciple, surely we would want someone to bring us to Jesus! The question was asked, “What keeps you from telling others about Jesus?” It seemed that all the responses that came back centered on self.
	+ That opportunity is not convenient for me (not comfortable, had plans, don’t feel like it).
	+ I am afraid of being rejected.
	+ I am afraid of losing them as a friend.
	+ I am afraid I will not be able to answer their questions or objections.
	+ I might do something wrong and mess it up. I will say the wrong thing.
	+ I want a prospect, not someone who is a project. That is, I want to baptize this person, but I really don’t want to spend hours and hours of my time trying to teach and help them put their life back together.
	+ I am waiting for the perfect moment.
	+ I don’t think I am ready yet. I don’t know enough.

\* (**John 1:35-51**): ***Notice that Philip simply brought Simon to Jesus & Philip simply said to Nathanael, “Come and see”*. Simply invite folks to our assemblies so they can come & see!**

* **The Golden Rule –** Maybe you are here today and know what you need to do to be saved. You have read the scriptures where you see you need to repent and be baptized. If I was in your shoes I would want someone to encourage me to come to Jesus today (**Matthew 7:12**)! If you have fallen away, we encourage you to come back!

**\*** We all encourage you this morning, as we stand and sing!