

DO TO OTHERS

-Ryan Parsons-

Matthew 7:12

"So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Jesus is a master teacher. He boils words from hundreds of pages into a straightforward one-sentence statement. These words have been used to compose songs. Christian mothers and fathers repeat them to their children thousands of times throughout the child-rearing years. They have covered Sunday school bulletin boards, commanded whole sections of the curriculum, and sermons galore have covered this topic. It sounds simple. But the pages of scripture teach that it is much more complicated than we would like to admit. Three stories immediately pop into my mind:

Cain and Abel

Joseph and his brothers

David and Saul

There are many more bad examples, for sure. Yet, seeded throughout all the failures, there are some victories. Here and there, individuals choose to live in the ways of God and act lovingly and gracefully towards their family, friends, countryman, and even their enemies.

However, there is one perfect example that exists.

1 John 3:16

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

Jesus' teaching and example propel us forward into living life in the way that God designed for us.

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

2 Corinthians 13:11

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Romans 12:18

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

May the precious words of Jesus echo in our hearts again this week and challenge us to live into his words. May our hearts and world be transformed and revived by being radically obedient to our King.