Dear Open Door Family,

Thank you, for your prayers last week. Carol and I traveled to Liberal, KS and spent time with our daughter Rachel and had the privilege of speaking at First Baptist on Sunday. We had several other opportunities to be involved in ministry as well. Please continue to pray that God would encourage the people of First Baptist and that He would provide the right person for them as Pastor. One of the lessons that I learned as we traveled and visited with other believers in Liberal was the unity that we have in Christ. It should not surprise me, but it always does when I meet other believers and spend time with them to realize how strong our bonds are in Jesus. We truly are part of a community and family much larger than any of us could even imagine. When we are finally all together in Heaven the joy and celebration of our Lord will be awe-inspiring. Until then we should live every day eagerly waiting for His return and Obediently doing those things He has placed before us to do. Let's look at these verses together.

Luke 6:30-31 *(NLT) Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. [31]* ***Do to others as you would like them to do to you***

Luke 6:31 *(JBP) "**Treat men exactly as you would like them to treat you**."*

Luke 6:30-31 *(MSG) If someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously. [31] "Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior:* ***Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them.***

Any time we are in a situation where we feel someone has used us, mistreated us in some way, or spoken badly of us these words of our Lord should come to mind. Jesus tells us that we are NOT supposed to pay them back. That is certainly part of the application of vs. 31 *"Do to others as you would like them to do to you."* I know in my own life I always want to be forgiven freely when I have done something wrong to someone else. But do I really offer forgiveness as quickly as I expect to receive it? I love what the **Holman NT Commentary** says about this: *"While it may be possible to not do evil to others, it is much more difficult to take the initiative to actually do good. A person may be able to keep the negative form of the law by avoiding sin, but to keep the positive form requires action. This is the key to the radical discipleship that Jesus wants. The Golden Rule is the foundation of active goodness and mercy - the kind of love God shows to people every day."*

PRAYER: Lord God, help me to choose to do good even to those who have hurt me in some way. Help me to remember how much You have forgiven me. Help me to Forgive them even if they never acknowledge what they have done. Thank You Lord Jesus for Your forgiveness; may I always show Your Love and forgiveness without hesitation to others.

Mark Kieft
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