

Thought for the day - Monday 27th November 2023

by Revd. John Ohen

Golden Rule

The teaching expressed by Jesus in the Golden Rule can be found in the ancient cultures and is a rich theme in Hebrew Scriptures. This can be summed up as “What you hate, do not do it to others” (Tobit 4. 15), or “Judge your neighbour’s feelings by your own, and in every matter be thoughtful”. How many of us are prepared to abide by this? To be more direct “That which is hateful to you do not do it to others”. That is the whole Torah, the rest is explanation. Jesus did not deviate from this teaching. The Golden Rule could equally be referred to as the Golden Gate because it is the narrow gate through which we can enter the kingdom of heaven.

If we went through our day truly treating people as we would like to be treated ourselves the world would be a better place for all of us. None of us like to be treated rudely but we can be rude towards others. Also, none of us likes to be the subject of gossip but we often succumb to gossip.

The Golden Rule is a law which we struggle to keep, and this is part of the human condition. The good we want to do we often find we cannot because there is another law or power at work in us as in (Rom. 7.7). The law of love moves us to look upon Christ crucified for here the love of God was fully and ultimately revealed. The cross has the power to set us free from the law of sin and death so that we can joyfully put into practice the Golden Rule.

Prayer. Lord Jesus, grant me the grace to practice the Golden Rule every day and, when I fall short of the glory of God, to turn back through the grace of conversion and repentance.