

Mt 7:7-12

Sermon: "The Amazing Offer of Empowering Grace!"

I. What is the Main Point of this passage?

- 1). You **MUST** love all others!
- 2). You **SHOULD** love all others!
- 3). And : You **CAN** love all others!
 - You **MUST** love all others, because God commands it!
 - The whole essence of being a Christian (in the first place) is:
You were saved "by grace", "through faith" – and this "not from yourselves" – it is the "gift of God" – "not by works, so that no one can boast ...
... (Yes, that is true)! But ! That verse goes on to say that you were saved ...
... *In Christ Jesus to do good works! (which God prepared in advance for us to do)! (Eph 2:10)*
 - You **SHOULD** love all others!
 - Because!
 - 1) Our "Dad" is the "King"!
 - 2) He loves us!
 - 3) He promises to give us everything that we "Ask/Seek/Knock" for!
(And that is "good" for us)!
 - 4) Therefore that should "free" us to:
 - "Do to others what we would have them do to us"!
 - You **CAN** love all others (you do have the ability!) (as a Christian!) because:
 - 1) Super-Natural "Grace" is available to you! So that you can:
 - a) Receive all you need (for your "life supplies") ... and ...
 - b) To become Christ-like in your character, desires, and capabilities
(Which, in turn, will allow you to selflessly and sacrificially live for (and love) others!)
 - * (Which we would not do otherwise)!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

If we would daily ask God for all we need of Him (seeking first His kingdom and righteousness and relying on His promise to add other things as He sees fit) ... (according to what is best for us) we would have no inclination to covetousness, selfishness, greed, and/or injustice!

But (if instead of depending like sheep on the care of their shepherd) we set off in the world like "beasts of prey" to "forage" for ourselves, we shall often think that it is "wise and necessary" to worry and "take" and "seize"! (Lest we be without)!

— Andrew Fuller

EARNESTNESS:

I asked the Lord that I might grow in faith,
and love, and every grace,
Might more of His salvation know,
And seek more earnestly His face.

'Twas He who taught me thus to pray,
and He, I trust, has answered prayer;
But it has been in such a way
As almost drove me to despair.

I hoped that in some favoured hour
At once He'd answer my request;
And by His love's constraining pow'r,
Subdue my sins, and give me rest.

Instead of this, He made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart,
And let the angry pow'rs of hell
Assault my soul in ev'ry part.

Yea, more, with His own hand He seemed
Intent to aggravate my woe,
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed,
Blasted my gourds, and laid me low.

"Lord, why is this?" I trembling cried,
"Wilt Thou pursue Thy worm to death?"
"Tis in this way," the Lord replied,
"I answer prayer for grace and faith."

"These inward trials I employ,
From self and pride to set thee free,
And break thy schemes of earthly joy,
That thou may'st seek thy all in Me."

— John Newton