

PROVERBS – Lesson 5

How To Treat Our Friends And Enemies

By Beverly McKey

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. It has been said that one may have many enemies in their life and will have only a few “true” friends.
1. There is a vast difference between an acquaintance and a true friend.
 2. Leroy Brownlow has offered this excellent assessment: A friend is like:
 - a. a break for a hungry appetite;
 - b. like a balancing pole for walking the tightrope of life;
 - c. like a soothing ointment for the cuts and bruises of life;
 - d. like a golden link in the chain of life;
 - e. like a vine that clings to us despite our weaknesses.”
 3. The definition of friend – close acquaintance, intimate associate, supporter or sympathizer, one who is helpful, reliable.
 4. On the other hand, an enemy is defined as a person who hates another, wishes or tries to injure him; a foe, hostile opponent.
 5. In the Old Testament and New Testament, there are two words translated “friend” or “companion” referring to a close associate, companion, co-worker.
 6. The word “enemy” or “enemies” is likewise often found in the Scriptures.
 - a. The devil is definitely an enemy.
 - b. The Lord faced many foes while He was in the flesh on earth.
 - c. The disciples of Christ in the first century had aggressive and bitter enemies who persecuted them severely.
- B. We live in a hostile world where people adopt the attitudes of “survival-of-the-fittest”, and “do-whatever-is-necessary” to succeed in the world.
1. While there are exceptions, many care only about themselves and do not consider the needs or the feelings of others.
 - a. We have heard the horror stories of injured people on the streets of our cities, crying out for help, being ignored and left alone to die.
 - b. Frequently people are willing to betray another if it will bring a raise in income, a promotion, or some kind of reward.
 - c. Violence from road rage is frequent in our society.
 2. Tragically people in our time are not the first to deteriorate to such an evil, selfish state.
 - a. In Noah’s day, wickedness was so great that “*every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*” (**Genesis 6:5**).
 - b. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because of their evil, immoral ways.
- C. In the Bible we are told of friends who are true, genuine, pure and helpful; and enemies who are evil, wicked, mean and hurtful.

1. Through study of these we learn what we can and should do.
2. Likewise, we learn what we can, but must not, do to be acceptable to God.
3. It must be our fervent desire to do what is best for all mankind.
4. To reach heaven, we must be servants of God and remember that all are sinful beings in need of a Savior.
 - a. All can be forgiven of sins, as a result of the shed blood of Christ.
 - b. All should be grateful that we do not receive what we rightfully deserve, but instead we have received mercy and grace from God.
 - c. When we understand the loving, forgiving nature of God we should be eager to forgive others as God has forgiven us.
 - d. God has not allowed us to take vengeance upon those who hurt us. Vengeance is to be left to the Lord. **Heb. 10:30; Rom. 12:19**

D. THE VALUE AND BLESSINGS OF TRUE FRIENDSHIPS

E. The book of Proverbs offers valuable instruction regarding how we should treat our friends and enemies.

1. In view of the fact that "*all Scripture is given by inspiration of God*" (**2 Tim. 3:16**), Proverbs provides valuable information to all who strive to walk in the way of righteousness and holiness.
2. The word "friend" is found 95 times, and the word "friends" is found 134 times in the word of God.
 - a. There are Biblical examples of friends who were true, helpful, valuable companions.
 - b. There are also friends who betrayed, slandered, attacked, and even killed others.

F. The Bible gives us examples of true friends as well as fair weather friends.

1. Good, true friends:
 - a. Jehovah and Moses spoke as friends **Exodus 33:11**
 - b. Joseph reflected integrity and qualities of true love and friendship when he willingly forgave and loved his brothers who had treated him in such an evil manner (**Gen. 37-45**).
 - c. Ruth and Naomi were dear friends as well as relatives. **Ruth 1:16-18**
 - d. Jonathan and David were genuine friends **1 Samuel 18:1-3**
 - e. Elijah and Elisha were affectionate friends. (**2 Kings 2**).
 - f. The apostle Paul enjoyed close friendship with many co-workers.
 - 1) Timothy, Titus, Barnabas, and many others were his dear friends.
 - 2) Epaphroditus was Paul's brother, companion in labor, and fellow soldier. **Philippians 2:25**
 - 3) Priscilla and Aquilla were treasured friends and co-workers with Paul in the kingdom of God. **Acts 18**
 - 4) Several women were true friends and supporters of Paul as he accomplished much in the Lord's work. **Philippians 4:1-3**
 - g. Jesus spoke of Mary, Martha and Lazarus as friends. **John 11:5-11**

2. The Bible also gives us examples of “fair-weather” or false friends.
 - a. The three Old Testament “friends” of Job were Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar were examples of “fair-weather” friends.
 - 1) They came to him in time of great distress and sat with him for several days.
 - 2) But in time they charged him falsely, hurting him instead of helping as friends (Job 2:11).
 - 3) Job accurately realized that his *“close friends abhorred”* him, and that *“those whom I loved have turned against me”* (**Job 19:19**).
 - b. The most well known false friend was Judas.
 - 1) He followed Jesus for three years, worked with the other disciples, listened to His teaching and witnessed His power through miracles.
 - 2) But when he had an opportunity to make financial gain, he willingly betrayed Jesus to the Jewish leaders. **Matt. 26:14-16**
- G. A true friend is one who will help, even at great expense in time, energy or money.
1. A true friend will be there during good and bad times.
 - a. If comfort is needed, they are there.
 - b. If strength and uplifting is required, they are there.
 - c. If a kind, listening ear is the need, they are willing to stop and listen.
 - d. If chastening or rebuke is needed, they are willing to do what is necessary.
 - e. A true friend will not allow one to continue in a direction that will bring tragic, serious consequences, without doing what is possible to stop it.
 2. Proverbs has some good thoughts about friendship:
 - a. **Proverbs 17:17** – *“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”*
 - b. **Proverbs 18:24** – *“A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”*
 - c. **Proverbs 27:17** – *“As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.”*
 - 1) The noun “countenance” may mean “face or appearance”, but it can also mean “the spirit, demeanor, behavior or conduct of a person” which is his “character”.
 - a) A true friend brings out the best in our character.
 - b) We are inspired to be better by the influence our valued friends.
 - 2) People who choose not to make close friends (loners) miss out on the wonderful benefits of friendship.
 - a) In this proverb, Solomon tells us that a true friend makes us a better, sharper person.
 - b) Just as a knife cannot sharpen itself, so the loner misses great opportunities to grow into a better person.
 - c) Just as a knife left alone eventually rusts, so do loners who are without true, noble friends lose the ability to relate well with others.

- d) Yet just as a dull, rusty knife can be “rehabilitated” by carefully rubbing it against a slightly abrasive whetstone, so can people be brought out of their selfish, lazy habits by finding a true friend who will help him overcome those habits.
- e) A simple, yet excellent test that will help each of us is this: Ask yourself – *“If I were someone else, would I want to be my friend or would I choose me as a close associate?”*

III. A FEW “DOs” AND “DON’Ts” OF BEING A GENUINE FRIEND FROM THE PROVERBS

A. The Do’s:

1. Be a true friend to others. **Proverbs 18:24** – *“A man who has friends must himself be friendly...”*
2. God loves all men and we must learn to love them as well.
 - a. **Proverbs 22:2** – *“The rich and the poor have this in common, the Lord is the maker of them all.”*
 - b. **John 15:12** – *“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”*
3. While some people will be closer friends than others, we are to love everyone, even our enemies.
 - a. **Proverbs 24:17** – *“Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles.”*
 - b. **Proverbs 25:21** – *“If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink;”*
 - c. **Matthew 5:43-44** – *“⁴³You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”*
4. Make an effort to reflect an attitude of humility that will encourage developing and maintaining friends.
 - a. **Proverbs 16:19** – *“Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”*
 - b. **Proverbs 29:23** – *“A man’s pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.”*
 - c. **Philippians 2:3** – *“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”*
5. Learn to be a good listener with a sincere concern for the speaker’s welfare.
 - a. In order to assist your friend, you must know what is taking place in their lives in times of happiness and sorrow.
 - b. The ability to sit quietly and focus on what another person is saying seems to be lost art today. Few people are really good at it.

- c. Instead of giving our full, undivided attention, we are often thinking of what we want to say next.
- d. When we have important conversations with our friends there are some things we can do to be a better listener.
 - 1) Understand that your friend is trusting that you are interested in her problem or circumstance.
 - 2) Put yourself in her shoes: Rejoice with her when she is happy, empathize and console her when she is upset.
 - 3) Turn to the Bible with her to find appropriate and helpful teaching when it is needed.
 - 4) Remember, that you will not always agree with your friend so try to be understanding of her circumstance, while standing your ground on principle even if it is not what she wants to hear.
- 6. Seek ways to help, strengthen, and encourage one another.
 - a. **Proverbs 12:25** – *“Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad.”*
 - b. **Proverbs 15:23** – *“A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!”*
 - c. There are many ways to encourage and strengthen others who are experiencing difficult situations.
 - 1) Send cards with an encouraging message or making a phone call is good, but these should not totally replace giving personal attention.
 - 2) Visit those who are lonely or depressed as a result of the circumstances they are in.
Proverbs 27:9 – *“Ointment and perfume delight the heart, and the sweetness of a man’s friend gives delight by hearty counsel.”*
 - 3) Invite people into your home for a meal or a fun game to help them get out of their homes and provide them a little time when they can forget their difficulty for just a little while.
 - 4) Sit with a sick person to give the main caregiver some time away from the stress.
 - 5) Sometimes people who are sick don’t even feel like carrying on a conversation, if so, offer to read the Bible to them for a while. They may find this very comforting while they are too weak to read it themselves.
 - 6) When people are facing difficult times, it is often the perfect time to approach them with the gospel while they are searching for solutions to their problems. That is the kindest thing we can do for anyone in the long run.
 - 7) Put yourself aside and concentrate exclusively on giving aid to that person. Let them know they are important to you.
 - 8) Always pray with and for those you visit or have in your home.
 - 9) Speak in a positive, edifying, honest, and sincere manner.
 - 10) Praise those who are doing good works.

- 11) Offer support to those with heavy hearts.
- 12) Do all you can to “be there” when needed.
 - a) Consider how much another’s presence is appreciated when you are the one receiving the attention.
 - b) Sometimes just being present, listening, expressing your concern and love is worth more than gold, silver
 - c) **Proverbs 27:10** – *“Do not forsake your own friend or your father’s friend, nor go to your brother’s house in the day of your calamity; better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.”*
 - d) **Proverbs 18:24b** – *“There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”*
- 13) Give of yourself unselfishly, serving others even as the Lord ministered to others.
 - a) **Colossians 3:23-24** – ²⁴ *“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”*
 - b) **Colossians 3:17** – *“...whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*

B. The Don’ts:

1. Don’t repeat confidential or private information about your friend to others.
 - a. **Proverbs 16:28b** – *“...a whisperer separates the best of friends.”*
 - b. **Proverbs 17:9** – *“He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.”*
 - c. **Proverbs 20:19** – *“He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.”*
 - d. **Timothy 5:13** – *“...they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.”*
2. Don’t assume that you always have the “perfect” answer.
 - a. There is nothing wrong with saying, “I don’t know what is best right now,” or, “I don’t know what I would do if I were faced with this situation.”
 - b. Until we have walked down that specific road, we should exercise caution in speculating how we would react in the same circumstances.
 - c. However you can offer to search the scriptures for answers and, if necessary, meet again when you have done that.
 - d. In every situation, it is appropriate to pray with your friend. Assure her that you will continue to pray about it and encourage her to pray about it until an answer or comfort is found.
3. Do not insult or injure another by minimizing their pain.
 - a. What may seem insignificant to one can be major to another.
 - b. Do not trivialize how your friend is feeling, reacting, or thinking.

- c. **Proverbs 25:20** – *“Like one who takes away a garment in cold weather, and like vinegar on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.”*
- 4. Don't judge without knowing the facts.
 - a. **Proverbs 31:9** -- *“Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.”*
 - b. **John 7:24** – *“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”*
 - c. While we cannot condone evil or neglectful actions, we must seek to understand the facts and any extenuating circumstances.
 - d. Remember, what may appear to be obvious at first may not be the real situation at all.
- 5. When the task at hand is unpleasant, dirty or distasteful, don't abandon your friend.
 - a. **Proverbs 19:7** – *“All the brothers of the poor hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him! He may pursue them with words, yet they abandon him.”*
 - b. The apostle Paul commended Onesiphorus for his help when Paul was in prison. **2 Timothy 1:16** – *“The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chains.”*
- 6. Do not deceive, flatter or meddle in private affairs of your friends or those you are trying to help.
 - a. Christians must be honest in all they do.
 - b. Insincerity and dishonesty will damage or destroy a friendship very quickly.
- 7. No one wants a friend who cannot be trusted to keep a confidence.
 - a. **Proverbs 11:13** – *“A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter (keeps a secret).”*
 - b. **Proverbs 20:19** – *“He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.”*
 - c. **Proverbs 26:28** – *“A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin.”*
 - d. **Philippians 1:9-10** – *“⁹And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ”*

IV. UNFORTUNATELY, NOT EVERYONE WANTS TO BE OUR FRIEND. WE ALSO HAVE TO LEARN TO DEAL WITH ENEMIES.

- A. Proverbs offers some very positive advice on how to treat our enemies.
 - 1. Solomon knew that God's servant must not rejoice when our enemy is suffering.

- a. God certainly does not celebrate when anyone suffers and we must care about their souls even if they count themselves our enemy.
 - b. **Proverbs 24:17-18** – *“¹⁷ Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, ¹⁸ lest the LORD see it and be displeased, and turn away His anger from him.”*
 2. Solomon goes even farther by saying we must be kind to our enemy. **Proverbs 25:21-22** – *“²¹ If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, ²² for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.”*
 3. Solomon taught that, in time, a man’s enemies will be at peace with him when he sees that he is a righteous man who faithfully serves God. That means that our example is important every single day. **Proverbs 16:7** – *“When a man’s ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”*
- B. The New Testament confirms that even the most faithful people will have enemies.
1. Jesus made some powerful people angry. They became His bitter enemies who were devoted to having him killed.
 - a. **Matthew 12:14** – *“Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.”*
 - b. **Luke 22:1-2** – *“Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. ² And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people.”*
 - c. **Matthew 27:30-31** – *“³⁰ And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.”*
 - d. The enemy that must have hurt Jesus the most came from His own inner circle, Judas Iscariot. **Luke 22:3-6** – *“³ Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. ⁴ He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. ⁵ And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. ⁶ So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.”*
 2. Stephen, listed as one of the first deacons (**Acts 7**), almost immediately found enemies when he attempted to preach the gospel to the Jews in Jerusalem. **Acts 7:57-58** – *“⁵⁷ Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; ⁵⁸ and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.”*
 3. The apostle Paul also had many enemies.
 - a. He experienced the same rejection by the Jews that Stephen experienced, even to the point of attempting to stone Paul to death. **Acts 14:19**

- b. Like Jesus, Paul also experienced having his co workers turn against him. **2 Timothy 4:10** – “...for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica.”
 - c. He specifically mentioned Alexander, the coppersmith, as one who did him harm. **2 Timothy 4:14** – “Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works.”
 - d. Paul asked the Galatians, “Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” **Galatians 4:16**
- C. Enemies are a reality to the faithful follower of God in our lives as well.
1. In fact, the Jesus warned us to be concerned when we do not have enemies.
 - a. **Luke 6:26** – “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.”
 - b. **Matthew 5:11-12** – “¹¹ Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”
 2. The amazing thing about what Jesus taught regarding enemies is that it was totally opposite of what the Jews had ever heard before.
 - a. The Jews practiced the Law of Moses which taught them in **Leviticus 24:19** – “¹⁹ If anyone injures his neighbor, as he has done, it shall be done to him, ²⁰ fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; whatever injury he has given a person shall be given to him.”
 - b. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus explained that He expected more of His followers: **Matthew 5:43-48** – “⁴³ You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”
 - c. Jesus not only taught this but He practiced it even on the cross. **Luke 23:34** – “And Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.’ And they cast lots to divide his garments.”
 3. Paul taught the same message as Jesus did.
 - a. **Timothy 3:12** – “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”
 - b. **Romans 12:14** – “Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.”

D. Christians must never forget that the worst enemy we have is Satan.

1. Jesus described Satan this way when he spoke to those who claimed to have Abraham as their father (insinuating that they were righteous)
 - a. **John 8:44** – *“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources (native language), for he is a liar and the father of it.”*
 - b. Jesus said, not only is Satan a liar but he is incapable of telling the truth.
 - c. Lies are his native language. He created lies in the garden of Eden with Eve.
 - d. Perhaps this is why “a lying tongue” and “a false witness who speaks lies” are two of the seven things listed that God hates in **Proverbs 6:16-19**
2. The devil even used some of his most powerful arguments on Jesus when He fasted in the desert.
 - a. Just like a coward, Satan waited to challenge Jesus until he was likely to be at His weakest after fasting for 40 days and 40 nights.
 - 1) In **Matt. 4**, Satan said, **“IF You are the Son of God command that these stones become bread.” Vs. 3**
 - 2) Then Satan took Jesus to into Jerusalem, set Him on the highest point of the Temple and said, **“IF you are the son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you.’ And In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ Vs. 5-7**
 - 3) Then Satan took Him up on a high mountain and showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and their glory (wealth). Satan said, **“All these things I will give You IF You will fall down and worship me.”**
 - b. Jesus gave us His example of how to resist temptation from the devil in these verses.
 - 1) Jesus reacted to Satan each time by quoting God’s word to the devil.
 - 2) He knew His Father so well that it was second nature to quote His Father’s instructions.
 - 3) Finally, Jesus ordered Satan to get away from him. Jesus did not intend to even listen to Satan any more.
 - 4) Do we have the courage to tell people to “get away from us” if they are offering strong temptations to us?
2. Christians must consider Satan a dangerous enemy; one that always wants us to do something to endanger our eternal souls and ruin our influence over those in the church and in the community.
 - a. **I Peter 5:8** – *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.”*

- b. Paul gave Timothy instructions on the qualifications of elders and points out why an elder must be respected in his own community.
1 Timothy 3:7 – *“Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”*
- c. This teaching applies to ALL Christians.
2 Timothy 2:24-28 – *“²⁴ And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶ and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”*
3. Paul also offer a defensive strategy for protecting oneself from the assault of the devil – that is to “*put on the whole armor of God*”.
- a. **Ephesians 6:16** – *“above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”*
- b. Another strategy is to “*have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.*” **Ephesians 5:11**
- c. Christians have to live in the world, but we must be separate from the world, which at times can be very difficult.
2 Corinthians 6:17 – *“For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” ¹⁷ Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord..”*

V. CONCLUSION

- A. The conclusion of the entire subject of “How to Treat Our Friends and Enemies” is summarized by the most famous teaching of Jesus:
Matthew 7:12 – *“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”*
1. If we could only find a way to instill this “empathetic” attitude in every child ever born, the entire world would change.
 2. No one ever wants to be mistreated, either physically or emotionally.
 3. Yet there are some people who seem to have no consideration for the feelings of others?
- B. The opposite of “empathy” is “disdain, hatred, indifference or mercilessness”.
1. One who lacks empathy is ALWAYS selfish and self-centered.
 2. It is easy to see that people who lack empathy could much more easily do harm to his family, friends and especially strangers.
 3. Christians must develop the servant attitude that Jesus Christ possessed and expects His followers to possess.
 4. We cannot do that until we have made the scripture known as “*The Golden Rule*” part of our very nature.
 5. If we practice this rule on everyone we meet – friends, strangers and even our enemies, we will be successful in all of our relationships in life.