> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
>
> *— 1 Corinthians 13:2*

Book: New Testament / 1 Corinthians
Topics: prophecy, faith, love

Interpretation:
The Bible is clear about the importance of love in the Christian life. In *1 Corinthians 13:2, the Apostle Paul* reminds us that even if we have knowledge, faith, and spiritual gifts, they are useless unless we act out of love.

Prophecy and knowledge

Paul mentions prophecy and knowledge as gifts that many yearn for and desire. Prophecy is the ability to receive messages from God and share them with others. Knowledge involves a deep understanding of God's Word and His will. However, even if we had these gifts in their fullness, if we did not love, we would be useless to God.

Love motivates us to share with others what we have received from God. When our motivation is love, prophecy and knowledge are powerful tools in God's hands for building up His church and glorifying His name. But if we seek these things for the sake of personal pride or simply to increase our knowledge, we will not please God.

Faith and power

Faith is another virtue that Paul mentions in this verse. Faith is essential to the Christian life, for without it it is impossible to please God *(Hebrews 11:6)*. But faith can also be dangerous if it is not accompanied by love. Faith without love can lead to arrogance and a lack of mercy toward others.

Paul mentions the ability to move mountains, perhaps as a kind of exaggeration to emphasize the power of faith. But he reminds us that even if our strength is such that we can do seemingly impossible things, if we do not do it out of love, it has no eternal value.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
>
> *— 1 John 4:1*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: prophecy, Spirit, trust

Interpretation:
In this verse, *John* warns us that there are many false prophets going out into the world. These false prophets are those who try to claim to be the bearers of the truth about God, but in reality their teachings do not line up with the true messages of the Bible. As Christians, we must be careful not to be deceived by these false prophets. We must be critical and always on guard.

The phrase **“do not believe every spirit”** refers to false prophets who claim to be messengers of God and try to deceive Christians. These false prophets can appear in many forms and situations, but their goal is always the same: to lead believers astray from the path of truth. The only way to avoid being deceived is to pay attention to what these prophets or teachers actually say and compare it to the teachings of the Bible.

John tells us that we must **“test the spirits”** to see if they are of God. This means that we must carefully examine what these potential prophets say and how they say it. We must compare their words with the teachings of the Bible and determine whether they are in line with God's truth or deviate from it. In this way, we can determine whether what we are being told is truly from God or whether it is a lie.

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> You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.
> — *1 John 4:4*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: prophecy, Almighty, overcoming, Salvation, world

Interpretation:
When we talk about the book of *1 John*, we find a letter that focuses on the importance of faith and trust in salvation through *Jesus Christ*, as well as the virtues of love, obedience, and humility.

This verse tells us about the power of the *Holy Spirit* who lives in us and helps us overcome any obstacles we face in life. No matter how great the enemy, nothing compares to the power of God that lives in us when we are believers.

The context of *1 John 4:4* is about the trials and opposition that believers face. This verse is a declaration of truth and victory over the world and everything that opposes God. This statement reminds us that although the world is full of evil, we are more than conquerors *in Christ (Romans 8:37)* .

The verse also tells us that the *Holy Spirit* who lives in us is stronger than any power in this world. This means that we should not be afraid of things that can harm us spiritually, because the Spirit of God within us protects us and strengthens us to withstand any danger.

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> But test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.
> — *1 Thessalonians 5:21-22*

Book: New Testament / 1 Thessalonians
Topics: prophecy, evil, understanding

Interpretation:

These verses *1 Thessalonians 5:21-22* are important because they show us the need to be critical of what comes to us, not to accept everything without thinking, and to separate the good from the bad. The Bible is clear about the need to distance ourselves from anything that will pull us away from good and toward evil.

But test them all

The first instruction in these verses is to test everything we hear. This means that we should not accept everything we are told without question, but rather analyze and evaluate the information before accepting it as truth.

We must be critical and not be afraid to ask questions and seek answers. To apply this to our lives, we can start by asking ourselves: Is this information realistic? Does it line up with other credible sources? Who is the source of this information and what is their agenda?

Hold on to what is good

The second instruction in these verses is to hold fast to what is good. Once we have examined the information we have received, we must separate what is good from what is bad. We must retain and accept what is true and valuable and discard what is not.

We must develop a critical mind and be willing to change our minds if better information comes our way. To apply this in our lives, we can begin by identifying what values ??are important to us and evaluating whether the information we receive respects or violates them.

Reject every kind of evil

The third precept is a reminder that we must be careful in our decisions, both in our actions and in our relationships. If we want to live a life pleasing to God, we must be aware of our actions and how they may affect others.

It is easy to get carried away by the temptations and impulses of the moment, but if we follow the command to abstain from every kind of evil, we will be able to make more informed and responsible decisions. In addition, this teaching also asks us to reflect on our relationships. Are we surrounded by people who encourage us to do bad things or tempt us to sin? If so, we should question these friendships and rethink our lifestyle.

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> Go back and tell Hezekiah, the ruler of my people, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the Lord.’
>
> *— 2 Kings 20:5*

Book: Old Testament / 2 Kings
Topics: prophecy, healing, Prayer, sadness

Interpretation:
This verse takes place in the context of the life of *Hezekiah*, the fourteenth king of Judah. ??Hezekiah stood out because he was a godly king who continually sought God’s will in his life. The previous verse tells how Hezekiah became gravely ill and asked God to heal him. It was in this context that God answered his prayer and sent him the message found in *2 Kings 20:5*.

Although this verse is specific to a specific time in Hezekiah’s life, it still has much to teach us. First, it shows us the character of God. God is a compassionate and merciful God who cares for us and our needs. We can trust Him and take our requests to Him, knowing that He hears us and sees us.

Second, this verse also teaches us the importance of prayer. Hezekiah prayed, and God heard him. Prayer is a powerful tool that we have at our disposal as Christians, and we should use it continually to ask God for our needs and the needs of others.

Finally, this verse shows us the importance of trusting God. Hezekiah trusted God, and his faith was rewarded. When we face difficult situations in our lives, we should trust God and His promises, knowing that He is in control.

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> For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
>
> *— 2 Peter 1:21*

Book: New Testament / 2 Peter

Topics: prophecy, Holy Spirit, speaking, Spirit

Interpretation:
2 Peter 1:21 is an important reminder of the divine nature of Bible prophecy. Often people may mistakenly assume that the Bible writers were simply creating stories and messages to suit their own interests. However, this verse ensures that we understand that prophecy comes from God and that the writers were guided by the Holy Spirit in their writings.

Prophecy is a recurring theme in the *Bible*, and the *Old Testament* in particular contains many examples of prophets delivering messages from God. These messages are not simply predictions of the future, but rather statements of God's will for His people at that time.

The Holy Spirit often accomplishes His will through prophecy. For example, in *Exodus 3:7-10*, God gives Moses a task, commissioning him to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. This task is not simply a prediction, but a command from God.

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> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.
> — *Acts 10:43*

Book: New Testament / Acts
Topics: prophecy, faith, Forgiveness, Jesus, sin

Interpretation:
In *Acts 10:43, Peter* makes an important statement about *Jesus*. He says that all the prophets testify that those who believe in Jesus will receive forgiveness of sins through His name. This verse shows us that faith in Jesus is not something new, but was held before He came to earth.

The *prophets of the Old Testament* foretold the coming of the *Messiah* who would be the *Savior of the world*. Jesus' incarnation fulfilled these prophecies and is the means by which we can receive forgiveness of our sins.

Forgiveness of sins

It is important to understand what forgiveness of sins means. The Bible teaches us that we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Our sins separate us from God and lead to spiritual death. But the good news is that through forgiveness of sins, we can be restored to a relationship with God.

Forgiveness does not mean that there are no consequences for our sins, but it does mean that we can be forgiven by God and have eternal life. This forgiveness is only possible through the atonement that Jesus accomplished on the cross.

The importance of believing in Jesus

Peter clearly states that those who believe in Jesus will receive forgiveness of sins. Believing in Jesus means having faith in Him, trusting Him, and following His teachings. *Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6)*.

He is the only way for us to have a relationship with God. Believing in Jesus not only brings us forgiveness of sins, but also gives us hope for eternal life.

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> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.
> — *Acts 19:5-6*

Book: New Testament / Acts
Topics: prophecy, baptism, Holy Spirit

Interpretation:
This is a historical account of the beginnings of the early Christian church and the work of the apostles to spread the teachings of *Jesus Christ*. *Acts 19* tells the story of the baptism of the disciples in Ephesus.

Paul came to Ephesus and found a group of people who believed in God but had not been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Paul spoke to them about the *Holy Spirit* and the need for baptism. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Why is baptism important?

Baptism is an act of faith that symbolizes the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When a person is baptized, he or she publicly declares his or her faith in Christ and his or her desire to follow His teachings.

Baptism also marks the beginning of a life of spiritual transformation. Through baptism, a believer is born again and becomes a child of God. In other words, baptism is an important moment in a person's spiritual journey and a way to commit oneself to a life of faith and service to God.

Who can be baptized?

Anyone who believes in Jesus Christ can be baptized. There are no special requirements for baptism other than faith. The Bible says that baptism is for all who believe in the Lord Jesus *(Mark 16:16)*.

This means that no matter how sinful or imperfect you are, if you believe in the work of Jesus Christ, you have the right to be baptized.

The power of the Holy Spirit

In this passage, the Holy Spirit manifests Himself in a special way by allowing believers to speak in tongues and prophesy. This shows us that the Holy Spirit is not only a comforter and helper in our lives, but also a powerful agent for carrying out God's work in the world.

Through the Holy Spirit, we can experience supernatural changes in our lives and be transformed into the image of Christ.

The laying on of Hands

Another important aspect of this verse is the laying on of hands that Paul performs on believers. This practice was common in the early church and was used to impart the Holy Spirit and God's blessing.

In this sense, the laying on of hands becomes a symbol of the transmission of divine grace that flows through the Church and unites us all as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Speaking in Tongues and Prophecy

The Bible shows us that speaking in tongues and prophecy are two manifestations of the Holy Spirit that have a special purpose in the lives of believers. In the case of speaking in tongues, this practice allows us to pray and praise God more deeply and spiritually, allowing us to establish a closer relationship with Him.

On the other hand, prophecy allows us to convey God's message through our words, enabling others to be inspired and edified by what God has to say to them.

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> Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.
>
> — *Amos 3:7*

Book: Old Testament / Amos
Topics: prophecy, planning, reliability

Interpretation:
The verse is a powerful and significant statement about the nature of God and His relationship with His servants, the prophets. This passage emphasizes that nothing God does will happen without first being revealed through His servants, the prophets. This means that God always works through His messengers to communicate His will and plans to His people. Likewise, it follows that prophets are a vital tool in guiding people to truth and salvation.

Prophets are known for their ability to listen to God and to convey His message to people. The Bible contains many examples of prophets who played important roles in human history, *from Moses and Jeremiah to Elijah and John the Baptist*. Each of them received revelation from God and were instrumental in conveying the divine message.

Through the prophets, God gave advice, guidance, warning, and comfort to His people. They announced the coming of the Messiah, revealed God’s laws, and called the people to repent of their sins and return to Him. Prophets had a special connection with God and were able to discern the divine will and communicate it clearly.

Amos 3:7 also emphasizes the importance of divine revelation. God does not act haphazardly or capriciously, but rather follows a carefully laid out plan. He reveals His will through His servants the prophets to lead His people in the right path and truth.

Divine revelation is not something exclusive to the past; it continues today. Through the Holy Scriptures, God continues to speak to His people and guide us. We can also receive personal revelation through prayer and the inspiration *of the Holy Spirit*. We must always be open and willing to

listen and obey the voice of God in our lives.

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> You may say to yourselves, “How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?” If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed.
> — *Deuteronomy 18:21-22*

Book: Old Testament / Deuteronomy
Topics: prophecy, speaking, truth

Interpretation:
These verses are found in the context of the book of Deuteronomy, the cycle of sermons preached *by Moses* before entering the Promised Land. In this section of Scripture, Moses speaks of the importance of distinguishing a true prophet, anointed by God, from a false prophet. Moses warns that some prophets may speak in the name of other gods, but a true prophet of God must speak only what God has revealed to him.

The importance of distinguishing a true prophet

It is crucial to recognize a true prophet of God, as the Bible teaches us that there are false prophets who seek to deceive believers and lead them astray. Furthermore, in *Matthew 7:15-16*, *Jesus* warns us: *"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them."* Therefore, it is crucial that we remain vigilant and sharpen our spiritual senses to distinguish messages that come from God from those that do not.

How to recognize the true Word of God

Deuteronomy 18:22 says, *"If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken."* This means that the true *Word of God* will come to pass. However, it should be remembered that the fulfillment of some prophetic events may take time. Moreover, there are certain types of prophecies that are not intended for everyone, but for a specific time or place.

Why is preaching important?

Preaching is important in the Christian religion because it enables God's messages to be conveyed and reached as many people in the congregation as possible. Preachers must be careful in their preaching and should be instructed not to distort the original message of the Bible. However, there is a risk that some preachers distort the Word of God in order to attract more people to their churches.

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> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.
> *— Ephesians 2:19-20*

Book: New Testament / Ephesians
Topics: prophecy, Church, Jesus, Kingdom

Interpretation:
Ephesians 2:19-20 speaks to us about being included in the family of God. Before we knew *Christ*, we were considered outsiders, cut off from God’s promise. But through faith in *Jesus*, we become children and members of God’s family.

These verses also point out the importance of *apostles and prophets* as the foundation of the Christian faith. These sacred leaders, along with *Jesus Christ* as the cornerstone, are responsible for building up the church and guiding believers in the path of truth and salvation.

Who are Apostles and Prophets?

Apostles are those who have been called and sent by Christ to preach the gospel and establish the church on earth. The Bible mentions the original twelve apostles, chosen by Jesus Christ before His death and resurrection.

Prophets, on the other hand, are those who speak for God and proclaim His message to the people. In the Old Testament, we find several prophets such as *Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel*, and others who announced the coming of *the Messiah*.

Jesus Christ, the chief cornerstone

The second part of the verses indicates that Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone of this spiritual structure. This means that He is the main foundation of the Christian faith, and everything that is built on Him must be consistent with His teaching and example.

The chief cornerstone was the fundamental element in the construction of ancient buildings, as it was the one that connected two walls and gave the structure stability and strength. In the same way, Jesus Christ is the link between believers throughout the world and gives strength and unity to the Church.

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> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”
> *— Isaiah 6:8*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah
Topics: prophecy, Evangelism, speaking

Interpretation:
Isaiah 6:8 is God's call to one of His servants to volunteer as His messenger. Seeing God seated on the heavenly throne, *Isaiah* was overcome by his own wickedness, but then he heard God's voice asking who would agree to carry His message to the world.

Isaiah quickly responded, "Here am I! Send me." This verse is powerful in its simplicity and offers several ideas for how we can respond to God's call in our lives.

God calls us to be His messengers

One of the most important lessons we can learn from *Isaiah 6:8* is that God calls us all to be His messengers. While not all of us possess prophetic abilities like Isaiah, each of us can play a role in God's mission.

Whether we are church leaders, social workers, Sunday school teachers, parents, or simply churchgoers, we can all carry God's message to our world.

Accepting God's call isn't always easy

Unfortunately, accepting God's call isn't always easy, especially if we feel unfit for the task. Isaiah was overwhelmed by his own impurity and needed purification before he could accept God's call.

Similarly, many of us feel overwhelmed by our own shortcomings and imperfections. However, God loves us just as we are and will provide us with everything we need for His work.

The Importance of Obedience

Isaiah responded to God's call with the words, "Send me." His response demonstrates the importance of obedience to God's will. When God calls us, we must not resist or make excuses, but must be willing to voluntarily dedicate ourselves to His work. Obedience isn't always easy, but if we want to be faithful servants of God, we must be willing to do His will.

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> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.
>
> *— Isaiah 7:14*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah
Topics: prophecy, Christmas, Jesus, miracles

Interpretation:
Isaiah 7:14 is one of the most famous verses in the Bible. In it, God promises the people of Judah that He will send a sign of His presence. This sign is none other than the birth of a child named Immanuel.

This verse is of great significance in the history of Christianity, as Christians believe this child is *Jesus Christ*, born *of a virgin*.

Who is this virgin?

One of the most common questions about this verse is who is referred to by the virgin. In Hebrew, the word *"almah"* used in this verse simply means *"young woman."*

Some argue that this word specifically refers to a virgin, while others say it doesn't necessarily imply virginity. However, regardless of the exact translation, it is clear that the birth of a child in this verse is a supernatural event.

Emanuel - God with us

The name Immanuel means *"God with us."* This name symbolizes God's presence with us and His active involvement in our lives. The name Emmanuel symbolizes God's presence in the world and His desire to be with His people even in the most difficult times.

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> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).
>
> *— Matthew 1:22-23*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: prophecy, Christmas, Jesus, miracles

Interpretation:
Christmas is more than just a date on the calendar. It is a celebration of the most spectacular event in human history. Christmas is a time to celebrate that God loves us and that He is always with us.

Man was created to have fellowship with God. God created us in His image so that He and we could enjoy personal relationships. Sin robbed us of that fellowship. That is the fellowship Jesus came to restore to this earth.

God could have chosen many ways to communicate with us, but because He created us, He knew that the best way to communicate with us was **face to face**. That is why He became one of us. He did not send an angel, a prophet, a politician, or an ambassador. **No! He came Himself!**

If you want someone to know how much you love them, you do not send a representative to communicate with them. *You go and tell them! That is what God did at Christmas!*

The Bible tells us that God is love. Love is the essence of God’s character. It is His very nature! We were created to be the object of God’s love. He created us to love us. **His love is the reason we are still alive**. Did you know that God was thinking about us before He created the world?

Because God’s love is unconditional, He loves us on our good days and our not-so-good days. He loves us when we feel His love and even when we don’t. He loves us despite our behavior, mood, actions, or thoughts. His love doesn’t change!

Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, Isaiah prophesied that He would be born as Emmanuel – God with us, to save humanity from its sins.

One of the problems with Christmas is that many people think of Jesus as if He was just a baby. Their idea of ??Him is that of a helpless newborn in His mother’s arms. If Jesus had never grown to do what He did, He would not have had the power to change our lives.

But the baby born in Bethlehem did not remain a baby. Jesus grew up, became a man, and showed us a way of life pleasing to God. *And let us not forget that this was God himself!*

He paid for our sins by dying on the cross. And then he rose again! This is the Gospel! Good news!

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> Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
>
> — *Matthew 5:17*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: prophecy, Jesus, law

Interpretation:
Matthew 5:17 is crucial to understanding the relationship between *Jesus’ teaching and the Law and Prophets of the Old Testament*. Jesus made it very clear that He did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill them. So what does this mean, and how should we apply it to our Christian lives?

The Law and the Prophets

First, it is important to understand what is meant by “the Law and the Prophets.” The Law refers to the first five books of the Bible, also known as the Torah. The Prophets, on the other hand, refers to the

prophetic books of the Hebrew Bible, which include Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, among others. These two elements make up the bulk of the Old Testament and are essential to understanding the relationship between the Jewish people and their God.

The Law and the Prophets were also central to Jesus' teaching and earthly ministry. By quoting the Law and the Prophets, Jesus was citing the foundations of the Jewish faith and demonstrating His divine authority by explaining their true meaning.

Fulfilling the Law and the Prophets

When Jesus declared that "I came not to abolish but to fulfill," He meant that He was fulfilling the original purpose and intent of the Law and the Prophets. In other words, He was fulfilling the promises and prophecies that were given in the Old Testament.

Jesus fulfilled many of the prophecies of the Old Testament, including His virgin birth, His public ministry, His death, and His resurrection. But beyond these prophetic fulfillments, Jesus also fulfilled the Law by teaching its true meaning and how we should apply it to our lives.

Applying the verse to our lives

So how can we apply *Matthew 5:17* to our Christian lives? First, we must recognize that the Law and the Prophets remain central to our faith and must be studied and understood in their original context and meaning.

In addition, we must strive to fulfill the Law by following the example of Jesus and imitating His love and compassion for others. This means not only following the laws of the Bible, but also loving and serving our brothers and sisters *in Christ* and everyone around us.

It is also important not to fall into the trap of thinking that we can fulfill the Law on our own. Only through God's grace and the help *of the Holy Spirit* can we truly keep the commandments of the Law and fulfill its purpose in our lives.

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> So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

> — *Matthew 7:12*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: prophecy, law, neighbor, relationships

Interpretation:
In Matthew 7, *Jesus* gives His disciples a series of instructions, including how they should treat others and how they will be treated in return. In verse 12, Jesus introduces what is known as the Golden Rule.

What is the Golden Rule?

The Golden Rule is an ethical principle found in many cultures, although it is perhaps best known as a teaching of Judeo-Christian philosophy. In its simplest form, the Golden Rule states that we should treat others as we would like to be treated. This includes a high degree of empathy and understanding for others, as well as a personal commitment to kindness and fairness in our lives.

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> Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.
> — *Matthew 7:15*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: prophecy, clothing, Second coming

Interpretation:
Matthew 7:15 warns us about false prophets. These are people who pose as true religious leaders, but are really only seeking their own gain. Therefore, it is important to protect ourselves from them.

How to recognize false prophets?

One way to recognize false prophets is to analyze their actions and words. Sometimes these people may seem very religious, but their real actions do not match their words. For example, they may be more concerned with money and power than helping those in need.

Why is it important to be vigilant against false prophets?

It is important to be vigilant against false prophets because they can deceive us and negatively affect our spiritual lives. If we blindly trust these people, we can be deceived and stray from the truth.

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> But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.
>
> *— Micah 5:2*

Book: Old Testament / Micah
Topics: prophecy, Christmas, Jesus

Interpretation:
Bethlehem was a small town located about 10 km south of Jerusalem. Ephrathah was a rural area near Bethlehem. The phrase *"Bethlehem Ephrathah"* refers to the specific location where the *Redeemer* was to be born.

It is notable that *Micah* does not mention any other major city, such as Jerusalem, as the birthplace of the messiah. Instead, a humble and remote location is given. This reflects the central message of his prophecy: God reveals himself through the small, the weak, and the vulnerable.

Micah 5:2 was quoted by the wise men who were looking for the baby *Jesus* in Bethlehem. In *Matthew 2:5-6* we read, *“And they said to him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”* This quote shows that the Jews themselves considered *Micah 5:2* to be a messianic prophecy.

It is also interesting to note that the wise men were foreigners, not Jews, but they knew the Hebrew Scriptures and were looking for *the Messiah*. This indicates that God’s salvation is not limited to a particular people or culture, but is open to all.

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> But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile.
>
> *— Romans 3:21-22*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: prophecy, faith, law, righteousness

Interpretation:
The Bible is a collection of holy books that contain much wisdom, stories, and fundamental teachings that can be applied to our lives. Some of the most powerful Bible verses are *Romans 3:21-22*, which talks about the justice of God and how it works in our lives.

What does “the justice of God” mean?

God’s justice refers to His goodness, His truth, and His love. It is His way of doing what is right and doing what is right. Therefore, God’s justice is His way of treating people according to His perfect character. Even though we have all sinned and fall short of His perfection, through faith in *Jesus Christ* we can be justified by God.

Old Testament Law

Romans 3:21 says that God’s righteousness was *“apart from the law.”* This refers to the Old Testament Law given to *Moses*, consisting of the *Ten Commandments* and many other rules and regulations. The Law was given so that the people of Israel could follow God, but it was also a constant reminder of their failure to keep it.

The justice of God revealed

Despite the Law, God revealed His Justice through the Prophets of the Old Testament. These men and women were called to proclaim God’s truth and to bring His message of justice, love, and mercy to the world. They reminded the people of Israel that despite their failure to keep the Law, God was still just and faithful to His obligations.

Justification by faith

It is for this reason that the justice of God is revealed in us through faith in Jesus Christ. As it is written, *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:23-24).*

Justification by faith in Jesus Christ means that we can be declared righteous before God not by our own merits, but by the work of Jesus on the cross. He died for our sins so that we could be restored to fellowship with God and have eternal life.

No distinction

The verse ends with the phrase, *“there is no difference.”* This means that regardless of your ethnicity, education, social status, or anything else that makes you different from others, God’s righteousness is available to you.

God’s justice is available to all people, regardless of their differences. In God’s eyes, there is no difference between people; we are all equal before Him.

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> Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
> *— Zechariah 9:9*

Book: Old Testament / Zechariah
Topics: prophecy, Easter, humility, Jesus, overcoming, righteousness

Interpretation:
The prophecy of *Zechariah 9:9* is very important because it announces the coming *of the Messiah*, a holy King who will come to redeem Jerusalem and all believers. This verse gives us hope because it reminds us that God always keeps His promises and that we can trust Him.

The meaning of “Daughter of Zion” and “Daughter of Jerusalem”

Zechariah uses two poetic expressions to describe God's people: "daughter of Zion" and "daughter of Jerusalem." These phrases represent the community of believers who were waiting for the coming of the Messiah and the restoration of Israel.

A holy and humble king

This verse describes *Jesus* as a just and saving king, but also humble. It is striking that the king rides on a donkey, a beast of burden and a symbol of humility. The Bible teaches us that to God, true leadership is not based on wealth or power, but on service and humility.

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