

## The Golden Rule

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

*"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."* Luke 6:31.

This verse, along with **Matthew 7:12**, is called the golden rule. If men obeyed its counsel and treated everyone as they would like to be treated there would be no wars, or other conflicts, in our lives. While we usually feel that this is a new teaching that Jesus taught in his ministry, it has been around since the Law of Moses. It might have been worded differently, but the message was the same – you would be treated the same way that you treated others.

In **Leviticus 24:19-20** the law said, *"And if a man cause a blemish in his neighbour; as he hath done, so shall it be done to him; Breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for tooth: as he hath caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to him again."* Again in **Exodus 21:24-25** it says, *"Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe."* These verses show that a person should be very careful in his treatment of other people. No one would want to lose a tooth, or an eye, or any other body part, so then no one was to cause another

person to lose one either.

This may sound like a harsh way to handle things, but no one had to hurt someone else. If they treated others right there would be no danger of them suffering punishment under this law. In **Deuteronomy 19:21** those who were judges and defenders of the law were told to obey the law and to execute the sentence when someone was found guilty. And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. **Deuteronomy 19:21.**

Punishment is always painful for all concerned, whether it is a criminal case or a misbehaving child. I don't understand why mankind hasn't learned yet, that if a person doesn't want to be punished then he shouldn't do the crime.

In **Exodus 21:24-25**, it mentioned *"wound for wound and stripe for stripe."* People have been wounded by words, as well as by physical abuse. Sometimes these wounds last much longer than a physical injury. Indeed some wounds never completely heal and the person suffers all through life. It is a fact that so many times a person will treat someone else in a way that he would not want to be treated. We need to remember that words can and do cause a lot of pain when things are said in anger. Words don't always have to be said in anger to cause hurt. Gossip is practiced by many and they either don't know, or care, that it does

a lot of harm. People will say, "I don't mean to talk about him, or her, but..." and then they go on to do a lot of talking about that person. Many times they don't even try to find out if the rumor is true, they just pass it on anyway. Yet, if someone talked about them that way they would be so angry and hurt, saying that it shouldn't have been done.

We are here in this life for a time and then we go to meet the Lord. He has given us his word so that we may know how to live and how to get along with other people. We will be judged by his word and how we lived here on earth. If we trusted him and lived in obedience to his commands we will be accepted as one of his children. Those who don't like, and may even hate, other people will be rejected by the Lord. *"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."* **1 John 4:20-21.** It is up to us how we live our lives and how we treat those about us. We choose to live by the "Golden Rule" or not. If we are serious about living for God and living in heaven then we will obey his commands. Our relationship with God is shown by the way we treat people here on earth. Remember Jesus said in **Matthew 25** that as you did unto one of the least of these, you did to me.

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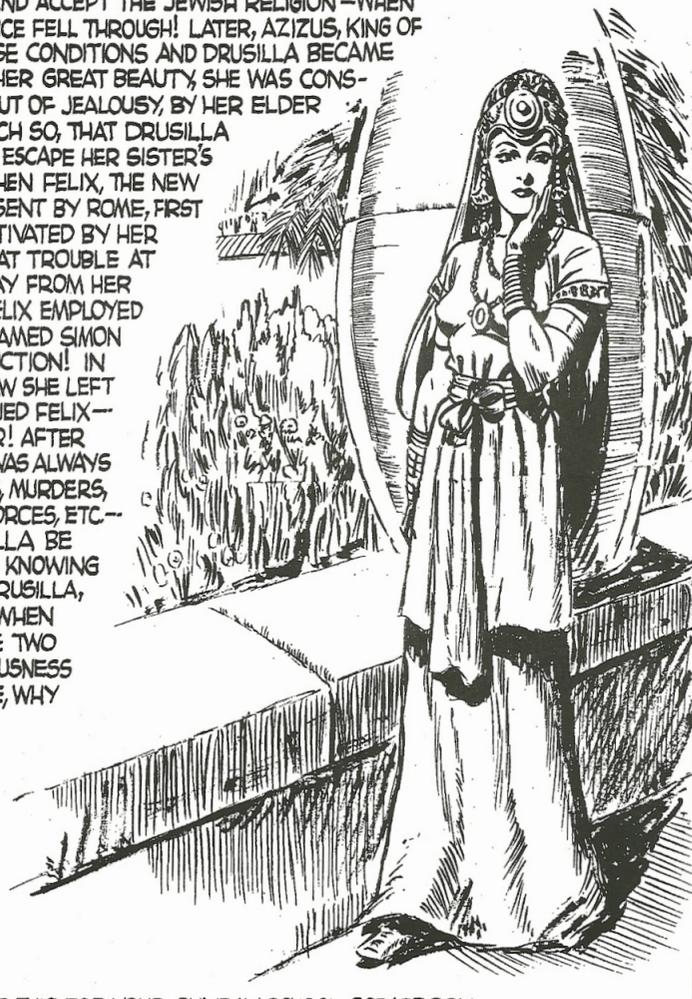
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# Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

## HER BEAUTY WAS A BURDEN – NOT A BLESSING!

DRUSILLA WAS THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF KING HEROD AGRIPPA I (BORN C.A.D. 38). BEFORE SHE WAS SIX, HER BEAUTY WAS DAZZLING AND SHE WAS PROMISED IN MARRIAGE TO THE SON OF KING ANTIOCHUS OF COMMAGENE. HOWEVER, THE YOUNG BRIDEGROOM WAS TOLD HE HAD TO BECOME CIRCUMCISED AND ACCEPT THE JEWISH RELIGION – WHEN HE REFUSED, THE ALLIANCE FELL THROUGH! LATER, AZIZUS, KING OF EMESA, ACCEPTED THESE CONDITIONS AND DRUSILLA BECAME HIS WIFE. BECAUSE OF HER GREAT BEAUTY, SHE WAS CONSTANTLY PERSECUTED, OUT OF JEALOUSY, BY HER ELDER SISTER BERNICE, SO MUCH SO, THAT DRUSILLA WOULD DO ANYTHING TO ESCAPE HER SISTER'S PETTY TYRANNY! SO, WHEN FELIX, THE NEW PROCURATOR OF JUDEA, SENT BY ROME, FIRST SAW HER, AND WAS CAPTIVATED BY HER BEAUTY, IT WAS NO GREAT TROUBLE AT ALL TO SEDUCE HER AWAY FROM HER HUSBAND – ALTHOUGH FELIX EMPLOYED A CYPRIOTE MAGICIAN NAMED SIMON TO HELP HIM IN HIS SEDUCTION! IN DEFIANCE OF JEWISH LAW SHE LEFT HER HUSBAND AND MARRIED FELIX – A GENTILE AND IDOLATER! AFTER ALL, HER WHOLE FAMILY WAS ALWAYS MIXED UP IN FOUL DEEDS, MURDERS, INCESTS, UNLAWFUL DIVORCES, ETC. – SO WHY SHOULD DRUSILLA BE DIFFERENT?! HOWEVER, KNOWING THIS ABOUT FELIX AND DRUSILLA, ONE CAN UNDERSTAND, WHEN PAUL SPOKE BEFORE THE TWO OF THEM ABOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUDGMENT TO COME, WHY IT WAS THAT FELIX TREMBLED SO!  
(ACTS 24:24,25)



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