

## Torturous

*In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.*  
Matthew 7: 12.

Recently a fellow I know had a colonoscopy. It was his opinion that the preparation was far worse than the procedure. I think most of us would agree. The last time he drank that much liquid in such a short time was during a marathon chug-a-lugging contest back in his late teens or early twenties. The results were, of course, different. Still, all that liquid has to go somewhere.

A week or so after the colonoscopy, the provider sent my friend details of the procedure and findings, including this memorable line. *“The colonoscopy was technically difficult and complex due to multiple diverticula in the colon, significant looping and a **torturous** colon...The cecum was not visualized.”* He had no idea that his colon was torturous. He’d been having some problems, but not nearly to that degree. Bothersome, maybe, but not torturous.

But he soon found out what **torturous** really is. In the details mailed to him, including pictures of the *“10mm sessile rectal polyp that was removed with a Cold Exacto snare”*, was a note in longhand. It said, *“Here are your procedure reports from 3-31-2017. You will be called with a date and time for a repeat colonoscopy with anesthesia. Have a good day.”* And beneath the wording was a happy face drawn by hand.

I am not making this up. *“Have a good day,”* and a happy face drawn by hand??? Not only did he have a colonoscopy, but something in his torturous colon requires a second look, I suppose the cecum which wasn’t visualized. They’re going to give him anesthesia this time – I forgot to ask if he got it the first time – and so the preparation still beats out the colon for what is really **torturous**.

When Jesus says, *“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets,”* I can think of several situations to which this would apply. Give a person a hand when he/she is in a jam. Don’t charge different persons different amounts for the same item in a store or online. Don’t phone people during the dinner hour (if we can figure out what their dinner hour is). Etc., etc., and so on.

Rabbis in Jesus day spent hours and hours trying to think of situations covered by God’s law. I don’t see much of anything like that anymore. I too rarely hear anyone mention God’s law, much less see people using it as a guideline for an issue at hand.

A happy face drawn beneath *“Have a good day”*? Really? Not even Hallmark has attempted a greeting card for a repeat colonoscopy. – DJ