

THE SECOND MILE

Text: Matthew 5:41

Introduction:

*What is the meaning of the second mile?

1. It means going further than required.

a. Grace always goes further than law.

-The Bible tells us in John 1:17, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

b. The Law said, "Thou shalt" and "Thou shalt not", but grace says, "Forgive, bless, and curse not."

c. Law is the first mile...grace is the second.

2. Why should we go the second mile?

a. That the character of our Heavenly Father may be made known in us.

-Matthew 5:45, "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven:"

b. The world needs to see more second mile children of God.

c. Jesus went the second and so should we.

I. WE ARE TO GO THE SECOND MILE LIKE HIM, IN LOVE.

A. Notice what the generation of Jesus' day had heard.

1. Love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy, vs. 43

a. This is a perversion even of the law of Moses.

b. Even the stranger in Israel was not to be mistreated.

2. There is no reward for this kind of philosophy.

-Read Mt. 5:46.

a. The sinners and publicans can express this kind of love.

b. This is the kind of love on the first mile.

B. Notice what Jesus told His disciples to do, vs. 44.

1. Love your enemies.

a. It isn't hard to love your friends or those who love you.

b. Saved or unsaved can do that.

2. But loving, blessing, doing good, praying for your enemies, like God loves us, manifests our sonship.
 - a. Romans 5:8-10
 - b. So Christ has not asked us to do something that He, Himself has not already done.
 - c. Gal. 5:22, "the fruit of Spirit is love"
 - d. Rom. 5:5, "the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."
 - e. We have the Holy Spirit to gives us the power to love our enemies.

II. WE ARE TO GO THE SECOND MILE BY OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD, See Matthew 5:38-39,44.

A. Doing "good" is a weapon that will overcome evil.

1. Romans 12:17-22.
2. Too many are like the wife taking vengeance out on her husband before the Lord could "get around to it."

B. But doing good to those who harm you is the second mile.

1. Think how Jesus was treated, yet He was dying for the very ones crucifying Him.
2. This is the Spirit of Christ.
3. Gal. 5:22, "the fruit of Spirit is goodness"

III. WE NEED TO GO THE SECOND MILE IN PRAYER

A. "Pray for them that despitefully use you...", vs 44

1. Jesus went the second mile here, "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do."
2. God answered that prayer, for many were saved on the day of Pentecost.

B. To pray for those who despise and persecute you may win them to Christ.

1. Hear Deacon Stephen pray, Acts 7:60.
2. I am persuaded that this started Saul of Tarsus to thinking, Stephen was on the second mile.
3. Acts 7:58; Acts 8:1 - Saul (later Paul) was there when Stephen stoned.
4. Acts 22:19-20 - Paul's testimony of his conversion.

IV. WE NEED TO GO THE SECOND MILE IN FORGIVENESS

A. Jesus taught His disciples to forgive

1. Luke 17:3-5, How often? 7 times 70 - Mt. 18:21-22.
2. Luke 6:37

B. The Lord forgives us over and over year in and year out.

1. Are we do anything less.
2. We are forgive as he forgave
3. See Eph. 4:32 & Col. 3:13
4. This is the second mile.

Conclusion: There is plenty of room on the second mile.

1. Lots of ONE MILE CHRISTIANS, that road is crowded.
2. But on the second mile, so few.
3. But remember again, Jesus is walking the second mile, urging us to come follow him.
4. How about you?