**GOING THE EXTRA MILE**

**Matthew 5:41**

**And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.**

**INTRO:**

**\*\*Many today give only what is necessary. They exert only as much of themselves as is needed to get by. Very few today give anything *extra.***

**\*\*The word *extra* means *“More than or beyond what is usual, normal, expected, or necessary. It’s better than ordinary; it’s superior.”***

**\*\*Jesus said in our text—*“And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.”* In other words, Christ calls upon his followers to *“go the extra mile.”***

**Illustration: In biblical times, a Roman soldier could tell a Jewish native to carry his armor or materials for one mile, in order to relieve the soldier.**

**Application: Our Lord tells us as believers to carry the load for others and be willing to go the *extra* mile.**

**\*\*Going the extra mile is *“making an extra effort.”***

**\*\*The extra mile that we go for others and the Lord . . .**

**1. It is a Desolate Extra Mile**

**\*\*It is a lonely extra mile because it is something this generation has Forsaken and Forgotten!**

**\*\*You will not find many going that extra mile with you.**

**2. It is a Difficult Extra Mile**

**\*\*Going the extra mile is Tough and Trying!**

**3. It is a Delightful Extra Mile**

**\*\*After going the extra mile, you will find out that it is Rewarding and Refreshing! It brightens your spirit and blesses your soul when you go the extra mile.**

**\*\*So today, I wanted to encourage you in Going the Extra Mile.**

**I. NOTICE THE COMMAND**

**A. The Savior’s Requirement**

**\*\*When the Lord presses us to serve, He has certain expectations of us; however, He is commanding us to do twice as much and to go the extra mile!**

**1. Go the extra mile with your Talents.**

**2. Go the extra mile with your Time.**

**3. Go the extra mile with your Treasures.**

**\*\*If your attitude is to get by with as little as possible especially when it comes to being faithful to the Lord then you have a heart problem, and you need to see the great physician right away!**

**B. The Saint’s Responsibility**

**\*\*Our responsibility is to “GO” the first mile and, . . .**

**1. It’s our Responsibility to be Ready to go the extra mile.**

**a. Too many are Uninterested about being Ready**

**b. Too many are Unconcerned about being Ready**

**c. Too many are Unwilling about being Ready**

**2. It’s our Responsibility to be Reliable to go the extra mile.**

**\*\*We should be plum embarrassed and ashamed of ourselves if we only have . . .**

**a. A One-mile Reliable Attitude**

**b. A One-mile Reliable Availability**

**Illustration: A missionary was asked, “Is there a good road to where you are that we may send our men to help you?” He said, “I do not need men who are seeking to travel on a good road. I need men who will travel on no road at all.”**

**\*\*If there’s no road at all then you must go the extra mile!**

**II. NOTICE THE COMPELLING**

**Matthew 5:41a And whosoever shall compel thee to go**

**A. Our Lord Compels Us to Go**

**1. Jesus gives us a Simple Persuasion to go the Expected Mile.**

**II Corinthians 5:15 “. . . he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”**

**a. The expected mile is living in Christianity.**

**b. The expected mile is living in Charity.**

**c. The expected mile is living in Compassion.**

**d. The expected mile is living in Church.**

**\*\*We must not live for ourselves; we must live for our Savior!**

**2. Jesus gives us a Strong Push to go the Extra Mile.**

**a. He is Pressing us to go the Extra Mile!**

**b. He is Pressuring us to go the Extra Mile!**

**B. Our Love Compels Us to Go**

**1. Our love for Him should Motivate Us to Serve**

**Joshua 22:5 Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.**

**2. Our love for Him should Move Us to Sacrifice**

**Deuteronomy 13:3 the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.**

**\*\*When you make sacrifices in that extra mile . . .**

**a. You are Proving your love for the Lord.**

**b. You are Perfecting your love for the Lord.**

**c. You are Performing your love for the Lord.**

**III. NOTICE THE COMPASSION**

**\*\*Everywhere Jesus went, he had compassion for people, and we need to do the same.**

**\*\* Go that extra mile and show compassion by . . .**

**A. Surrendering Your Warfare**

**Matthew 5:39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.**

**Note: Christ said, “That ye resist not evil:” What He is saying is when someone is mean and evil toward you, do not fight back with resistance. Instead offer the other cheek.**

**Illustration: A convicted prisoner served time and came home to mom and dad who said that living in their house meant going to church. After the service, the preacher who knew this former prisoner offered a hug as the preacher said, “I love you and Jesus loves you too!” Instead of a hug the preacher got slugged!**

**The preacher got back up and approached the former convict again with a hug and said, “I love you, and Jesus loves you too!” Once again the preacher got slugged and was warned to stay away.**

**The preacher got back up and once again approached the shameful former convict with a hug and said, “No matter what you do, I love you and Jesus loves you too.”**

**That time the preacher embraced that ole sinful person who broke down all defenses and wept like a baby. It was there in the church parking lot that the preacher and the sinner knelt together to called on God to save that precious soul. Thank God for the preacher that went the extra mile and kept turning the other cheek.**

**B. Surrendering your Wardrobe**

**Matthew 5:40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have *thy* cloke also.**

**Note: The coat was an under garment, kind of like a long sleeved shirt that went to the knees. The cloke was an upper garment that went over the coat. Only the richer people had clokes.**

**\*\*The Lord said if you are found guilty then . . .**

**1. Give your Coat if you are Convicted and have the Responsibility to do so. This is Expected.**

**2. Give your Cloke if you are Christ’s and have the Resources to do so. This is Extra.**

**C. Surrendering your Walk**

**Matthew 5:41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.**

**\*\*Sometimes the “whosoever” that compels you to help them carry a load will be a Saint, and other times it’ll be a Sinner. Our Savior said that if they ask you to go one mile, surprise them and go two miles!**

**D. Surrendering your Wallet**

**Matthew 5:42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.**

**\*\*Give to the Beggar, and give to the Borrower.**

**Psalms 112:5 A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.**

**\*\*The word discretion means you guide your affairs with the beggar and the borrower using good judgment.**

**E. Surrendering your Wishes**

**Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

**1. Pray for your enemies and wish them Good**

**a. Speak Goodness to them.**

**b. Show Goodness to them.**

**2. Pray for your enemies and wish them Gain**

**a. Pray they get the Heavenly Blessings**

**b. Pray they get the Helpful Blessings**

**\*\*I truly believe that Jesus was saying that if we are going to go the extra mile as Christians, then we must be willing to surrender our warfare, our wardrobe, our walk, our wallet, and our wishes!**

**CLOSE**

**Someone has said:**

**1. Some people are like wheels -- They don't work unless they're pushed.**

**2. Some people are like trailers -- They have to be pulled!**

**3. Some people are like kites -- Always up in the air, and if you don't keep a string on them they fly away!**

**4. Some people are like footballs -- You never know which way they are going to bounce next!**

**5. Some people are like balloons -- Always puffed up and you never know when they are going to blow up!**

**6. Some people are like a flat tire with a nail in it -- They have to be inflated often to keep them going!**

**7. But then there’s some people who are like a good watch – They are pure gold, open faced, always dependable, quietly busy and just full of good works.**

**\*\*It’s getting harder and harder to find an ole time Christian that not only loves the Lord to do what is expected, but that loves the Lord enough to do what is extra.**

**\*\*Will you commit to being that ole time Christian that will go the extra mile with your Walk, with your Ways, with your Worship, with your Willingness, with your Wages?**