



WEEKLY SERMON

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Text: Matthew 5:38-41

In our fast pace life it is good to STOP and remember Jesus never seemed in a rush. He kept His own timetable, operated at His own speed. He never wore a watch, but He always knew the hour. He never wasted a minute, but He never rushed through a day. We're not used to that pace, and sometimes it seems to us that Jesus is slow to respond and late on the scene. On several occasions during His ministry, Jesus appeared to have been tardy.

When the disciples were caught in the storm on Galilee, He tarried until the "fourth watch," sometime between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. He could easily have rescued them at 9 p.m., and all could have enjoyed a good night's sleep; yet He waited.

Remember the time Jairus begged Jesus to come and heal his daughter who was at the point of death? Jesus started in that direction but paused to deal with the woman who touched the hem of His garment. He arrived at Jairus' house too late, or so it seemed.

Christ was working on a different schedule, patiently waiting until all the circumstances were correctly aligned for the fulfilling of His purposes. He still employs the same keen, impeccable sense of divine timing in answering our prayers and directing our lives.

Quite often, the writers of the Psalms extol the virtue of waiting on the Lord. In reading the Psalms, we run across phrases like the end of Psalm 27:13-14,

**"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
(14) Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say,
on the LORD."**

Yet the same authors who tell us to "wait on the Lord" also keep asking, **"How Long...?"**

Psalm 13:1, **"How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? ... how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?"**

Psalm 80:4, **"O LORD God of hosts, how long wilt thou be angry against the prayer of thy people?"**

Psalm 94:3, **"LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph?"**

There are twenty-eight **"waits"** in the book of Psalms, and eighteen **"how longs."** We can identify with this dilemma. On one hand, we're told to patiently **"wait on the Lord"**; on the other hand, we are impatient people with urgent needs. When we're in distress, pain, or adversity, we cry out, **"Lord, how long?"**

The secret is **placing** ourselves in His hands and **pacing** ourselves according to His timetable. **"The delays of God are not meant to discourage our faith, but to develop it,"** wrote Amy Carmichael. The Lord Jesus Christ is Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. He knows the end from the beginning, and the apparent delays in life are simply God's way of aligning circumstances for our benefit. If you're facing a time trial, don't compete with God's timing or be discouraged and abandon your hope in Him.

In Psalm 46:1-10 we read, **"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (2) Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; (3) Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. (4) There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. (5) God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early. (6) The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted. (7) The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah. (8) Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth. (9) He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. (10) Be still, and know that I am God..."**

Notice again the words in verse 10, **"Be still, and know that I am God..."**

If you feel overwhelmed, bogged down, or burned out, add just one more activity to your daily schedule: Spend time with Almighty God. It is the only way to reach the depth needed to find true calm in the midst of any storm. In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said,

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (30) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Here is another way of singing the Sunday School song **"Jesus Loves Me."**

**Jesus loves me, this I know - Though my hair is white as snow.
Though my sight is growing dim - Still He bids me trust in Him.**

**Though my steps are oh, so slow - With my hand in His I'll go.
On through life, let come what may - He'll be there to lead the way.**

**Though I am no longer young - I have much which He's begun.
Let me serve Christ with a smile - Go with others the extra mile.**

**When the nights are dark and long - In my heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear - "Have no fear, for I am near."**

**When my work on earth is done - And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above - Then I'll understand His love.**

**I love Jesus, does He know - Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say - That I love Him every day.**

**Chorus: Yes, Jesus loves me...Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me for the Bible tells me so.**

In His Amazing Grace,
Pastor David Miklas

“The Second Mile Christian”

INTRODUCTION: In Matthew 5: 38-41 we read,

“Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: (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. (40) And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.” Especially notice verse 41, **“And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.”**

Here the Lord tells us what was commanded under the Old Testament, and then He turns around and gives us what we are to do under grace.

For example in verse 38 we read, **“Ye have heard..., An eye for an eye...”** In the Old Testament you were to retaliate, in other words you settled the score. You do something to me and I will do something to you in return. It was a slap for a slap, a punch for a punch, a kick for a kick. But Jesus says in verse 39, **“But I say unto you go the second mile under grace and turn the other cheek...”**

In the Old Testament I had my rights, and you didn’t dare infringe upon them. In the modern world, it seems everyone is once again talking about their RIGHTS instead of their DUTIES. The spirit of the world, the spirit of the natural man has always said, **“I must have my rights.”**

On the other hand, the character of the righteous man compels him to give up his rights. Over in I Corinthians 9: 7-12, Paul talks about the right of those who minister spiritually to be provided for. However in verse 12 we read, **“If others be partakers of this power (rights) over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power (right); but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.”**

In summary the Apostle Paul is saying, there are situations in life where Christians have their rights, but sometimes for the sake of the gospel of Christ it is necessary to lay aside their rights, as our Lord is teaching and **“GO THE SECOND MILE.”**

Wherever you go or whatever you are involved in there are always three groups of Christians.

The first group contains what we call the **DO NOTHINGS**, the **APATHETIC** sitters. All they do is watch while others do the work, do the tithing, and use their talents.

The second group encompasses the largest number of people. They live on the border line of life. Their password is **DUTY**. They will do only what is required. For the most part you will find them in church, but...

They will tithe and no more.

They will read their Bible 15 minutes a day and no more.

They will pray 2 or 3 minutes and no more.

They will witness only when and if the pastor gets after them.

The third group of people rises above the circumstances, and becomes the second milers. The second mile is the mile of **DEDICATION** and **SACRIFICE**.

The **first mile** Christians live by the **LETTER OF THE LAW**. But the **second mile** Christians go a step farther and say, **“My righteousness will exceed the righteousness of the religious crowd.”**

The **first mile** Christians say, **“I have my rights, I'll do my duty.”** The **second mile** Christians say, **“I'll do more than what is required.”**

Now out of these three groups come three attitudes:

There is the **MINIMUM MOTIVE**: "**Compelled to go one mile,**" that is the minimum motive.

There is the **MAXIMUM MIND**: The grace of God says you go one mile out of DUTY. But the maximum mind tells you to go the second mile out of LOVE.

There is the **MAGNANIMOUS MINORITY** who goes the mile of discipleship. This third group forsakes all that they have and puts it all in the Lords' hands. These Christians are saying, "**My whole life and everything I have and love now belongs to Him.**"

NUMBER 1: There is the **MINIMUM MOTIVE**. The land of Palestine was occupied territory in our Lord's day. Israel was overrun with Roman soldiers who had to move from place to place. The method of transporting the goods of a soldier was to conscript men who would carry their burdens for them.

If a Roman soldier compelled you to go a mile and carry his burden, a Jew was required by Roman law to carry the bag one mile. He didn't have any choice in the matter.

Jesus said, if you are compelled to go one mile - that is your duty. But do more than your duty, go beyond the requirements and go with them two miles.

Remember our Lord was talking about a very, very despicable law. The Romans loved it, the Jews hated it. Our Lord came along and said, "**You have your rights.**" But here was the shock to the Jewish system – "**You go two miles out of love and grace.**"

Going the mile was the **MINIMUM MOTIVE** for any Jew. They did just what was demanded and not an inch more.

This reminds me of people who do just enough to get by.

These folks are **on the job** doing what is required. They do the job quickly, put in the required time, get the pay check and get out when time is up. There is no job satisfaction, no joy, no feeling of accomplishment. Day in and day out it's the same required mile.

Same way with **students** who will do their homework, but only what's required to get a passing grade.

Some **housewives** will only do enough housework to get by, nothing special and nothing exciting.

Likewise, some **men** come home, read the newspaper, eat dinner, watch TV, and off to bed they go; only to repeat the routine the next day.

Church workers are no different. Their preparation leaves a lot to be desired. Just enough time is spent to get by.

You don't get to show how good a Christian you are in the first mile because you are dealing with **OBLIGATION**. There is no sacrifice in obedience. Obedience is a requirement, a command, it's a demand. You are doing what is right, what is demanded of you. But in the second mile:

You can sacrifice and go farther than you are required to go.

You can show Christ that your service is out of **LOVE**, not out of **DUTY**.

Having the **MINIMUM MOTIVE** in life means you will do your duty, but don't expect any more.

NUMBER 2: There is the **MAXIMUM MIND**. Notice again verse 41. "**And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.**" Here we have the second miler.

The **first mile** Christian does the job that is asked of him.

He'll visit because the Pastor got on his case.

He'll do the work that is required.

He'll perform the same this year as he did last year.

He'll do only what is required.

The **second mile** Christian goes beyond the call of duty.

I'll give that child In Sunday School an extra hug.
I'll give that extra effort In preparing.
I'll give the offering out of LOVE not because of the Law.

The **second mile** Christian is:

The Sunday school teacher who does more than teach.
The Children's worker who does more than just show up.
The Choir member who does more than just sing.
The Team member who does more than just sit.
The Church worker who does more than just what is asked.
The Staff member who gives that little extra.
The second miler does the little extra to get the job done.
The second miler gets the victory.
The second miler succeeds because He didn't quit.

I believe the Apostle Paul tells us what makes the second miler TICK in II Corinthians 5:14 where we read, "**the love of Christ constraineth us ...**" The word "**constraineth**" could be translated "**compels**." The first mile Christian is concerned about the legalistic aspect of our duty; the second mile Christian is compelled by the love of Christ. Sadly, I have seen this with my own eyes:

The **first mile** Christian will do his duty, but come out **BITTER, COMPLAINING** and **COMPLACENT**. Whereas the **second mile** Christian will be compelled to walk with the Lord out of love and come out **REJOICING**. This person is doing it because the **LOVE OF CHRIST COMPELS** him to do it. This then makes it a joy and not a burden.

Stop for a moment and think of this. Why is it that so much of the Lord's work becomes drudgery, with **NO PEACE** or **SATISFACTION**? Perhaps this is the reason:

It has become Church work instead of Christ's work.
It has become Committee work instead of Christ's work.
It has become Sunday School work instead of Christ's work.
It has become Choir work instead of Christ's work.

Our Lord challenges us to go the second mile and to do that which is unexpected. We find examples of going the second mile in the Sermon on the Mount.

First Example: In Matthew 5:23-26 we read, "**Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; (24) Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. (25) Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. (26) Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.**"

The first mile Christian will make it right with those he has wronged. Whereas the second mile Christian will make it right with those who have wronged him.

When the **FIRST mile** Christian does something wrong, he apologizes.
When the **FIRST mile** Christian says something unkind, he asks to be forgiven.
When the **FIRST mile** Christian cheats somebody, he makes it right.

The **SECOND mile** Christian goes and makes it right even if he was accused unjustly.
The **FIRST mile** Christian will retaliate, "**An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.**" You did something to me, I have my rights and in turn I will get you back."

The **SECOND mile** Christian says, "Even though you put my eye out, I'll forgive you and help you to redeem yourself."

You might be thinking, "I can't do that. I have a right to get even." Yes, and by that statement you have just told me you are a **first mile** Christian. However, the **second mile** Christian is likely to say "I will forgive you and in turn I will not retaliate, I will not fight back. I will not seek vengeance. I'll love you the same now as I did then. I'll forgive you, and continue to stay busy for the Lord."

Second Example: In Matthew 5:27-28 we read, "**Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: (28) But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.**"

The **first mile** Christian doesn't commit adultery. The **second mile** Christian doesn't even look at a woman.

The **first mile** Christian lady doesn't actively entice a man. The **second mile** Christian lady doesn't dress to draw a man's attention to her body.

The **first mile** Christian will not commit the sin. The **second mile** Christian says I'll keep my mind clean and my body pure by not walking on the edge. I'll even keep away from the TV and VIDEO that shows sexual acts.

Third Example: In Matthew 5:40 we read, "**And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.**"

If somebody wants your inner garment, Jesus says to give them your outer garment also. To bring this concept clearly to our understanding, the **first mile** Christian gives 10%; he tithes. He gives only that which is required by God. The **second mile** Christian gives beyond the tithe. He gives more than 10%; he gives an offering.

Fourth Example: In Matthew 5:43-45 we read, "**Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. (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; (45) That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.**"

First milers love their people. **Second milers** love all people.

First milers love only America. **Second Milers** love the whole world.

First milers love only friendly people. **Second milers** love even unfriendly people.

First milers love the attractive people. **Second milers** love the unattractive people.

First milers love all those who are sweet and kind. **Second milers** love all those who are critical and hateful, especially to them.

Oh, may I challenge you to go the second mile, **Church member?**

Oh, may I challenge you to go the second mile, **Children's worker?**

Oh, may I challenge you to go the second mile, **Sunday School teacher?**

Oh, may I challenge you to go the second mile, **Nursery worker?**

Oh, may I challenge you to go the second mile, **Deacon?**

Oh, may I challenge you to go the second mile, to **give more than your tithe?**

Oh, may I challenge you to go the second mile, to **attend church every time the door is open?**

Oh, may I challenge you to go the second mile and **besides singing, "Oh How I Love Jesus" demonstrate that love in your actions and reactions to others?**

Oh, may I challenge you to go the second mile even though:

It may mean self-denial,

It may mean personal sacrifice,

It may mean hardships and personal inconveniences,

**It may mean swallowing your pride,
It may mean humbling yourself, and
It may mean being broken in spirit.**

The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 1:21 "For me to live is Christ..." I challenge you to become a **second mile** Christian.

As a **second mile** Christian you can expect several outcomes:

First Outcome: You will leave a deposit of happiness around you.

Second Outcome: You will lift the life burdens from someone who appears to be going down for the 3rd time. The second miler is like the one who saw the man who had been robbed and beaten and stopped to help.

**He was willing to get down in the ditch.
He was willing to get his hands dirty and bloody.
He was willing to be inconvenienced for the sake of another.**

Third Outcome: You will go out of your way to bring out the best in another.

Fourth Outcome: Going the second mile will glorify God and exhibit an example of the Lord Jesus Christ. In so doing you may provide an opportunity for someone to turn to the Savior for salvation.

The **MINIMUM MOTIVE** is shown by the first mile Christian.
The **MAXIMUM MIND** is shown by the second mile Christian.

NUMBER 3: There is the **MAGNANIMOUS MINORITY**. These are the **third milers**. These are His disciples. Notice Luke 14:33 where the Lord tells us, "**So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.**"

You ask, what does this mean? Does it mean that I have to get rid of everything?" No, you have to think of your possessions as no longer belonging to you alone. You have got to be willing to let them all go. The third miler leaves them all at the altar.

The **first mile** Christian separates from sin, and he should. The **second mile** Christian separates from that which is questionable, and he should. But the **third mile** Christian separates himself even from those good things that would be a weight in service to Christ.

The **first mile** Christian gives tithes to God. The **second mile** Christian gives sacrificial offerings above a tithe. But the **third mile** Christian gives it all. He keeps nothing back from the Lord.

The **first mile** Christian gives a Christian witness, but stops there. The **second mile** Christian will be a soul winner. But the **third mile** Christian gives his entire life to the work of seeing people come to Christ.

The third mile is the crucified life, where it is not you that live, but Christ living through you. In Romans 6:11 we read, "**Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**"

When you consider yourself dead, there will be no dreams or hopes or fears or loves that stand between you and God's call upon your life. You will be willing to forsake all to be His disciple.

The **first mile is the mile of duty** - complete obedience to the clear commands of the scripture. Have you gone the first mile?

The **second mile is the mile of dedication** - going beyond the call of duty to serve sacrificially and do more than others. Have you gone the second mile?

The **third mile is the mile of discipleship** - affording the closest communion with Christ.

In every generation there are a small handful of people sprinkled across this globe who have given their all for the cause of Christ. They hold nothing back from the Lord to do with as He chooses. It is only these few who ever walk the third mile and who know the true meaning of discipleship.

In Luke 14 we read in verse 27, **“And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.”**

And in verse 33 we read, **“So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”**

Have you found yourself at one of these mile markers? Where are you along the way? Decide today to finish the mile you are on and take the next step toward total consecration and surrender to Christ.

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon **“The Second Mile Christian”** then right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, **“...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...”**

Romans 10:13, **“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”**

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: **“I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.”**

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior let me know? Please send an e-mail to, pdmikBBM@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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