

# "Second Mile" Christianity

## Matthew 5:38-42

Begin in Matthew 5:17 – 44 →

- Jesus was establishing the new moral high ground of the Kingdom.
- See also Hebrews 1:1, 2

There is a prevailing mentality in the Church:

- Do just enough to scrape by and get to heaven.
- It is more concerned about receiving than the advancement of the whole.

*"I say to you..."* → What Jesus says supercedes everything else!

### **v.39 – Submit without fighting back.**

- \* Would you be willing to be used by God to allow someone else to be convicted of their sin? (If we did this, we would never have a dispute in the church!)
- Remember the centurion (Matthew 27:54)

### **v.40 – Retribution?**

- \* Though it is costing you something initially, it is setting you up for blessing and increase.
- Divine justice demands that things be righted.
- Giving more than the judgment would prove that what was taken didn't affect or control you.
- The receiver could not enjoy his gain.

### **v.41 – Imposed Roman custom**

- \* What would this do for the name of Christ and the reputation of Christianity?
- \* See Matthew 27:32 – Simon Cyrene

### **v.42 – Giving and lending**

Each of these examples refers to our expectation to get something back.

If we can live like this --- we can prove that we are living from a source that is greater than this world.

Two of the greatest modern examples of non-violent resistance victories:

- Martin Luther King – American civil right
- Ghandi – India over British Imperialism.

## “Second Mile Club” (Membership Qualifications)

Go above and beyond the minimum.

- The minimum expectation is a starting point not a goal.
- Anyone can take an eye for an eye... (“*But, I say unto you...*”)
  - What challenge has God put on your level of consecration?
- Faith has no limits. [We set the limits by what we will believe for.]
- As we just trying not to sin --- or, are we living every day fully “in the Spirit?”
- Are we just trying to make it to heaven --- or, are we allowing God to use us as a channel to bring heaven to earth?

Give more than you take.

- If this was the norm, there would be no need anywhere.
- Are you an asset or a liability?
- Are we content with just being blessed --- or, do we want our life to be a blessing to all?
  - Jesus’ life is our example...(He was an offering poured out.)

Do something without being asked.

- Do more then you are asked.
- Do something without any expectation of return.

Defer all vengeance to God.

- He is the ultimate Judge and Vindicator.
- He will repay.
  - Not necessarily by punishing someone else --- but maybe balancing out any injustice by blessing you.