

## ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE THE TRIP ON AN EMPTY TANK?

R.H. Martin Sermon Outlines Edited

TEXT: Matt. 5:38-42 You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Before starting on a long trip the wise person fills up his tank with gasoline.
    - 1. I see folks all the time carry those little gas cans back to their car.
    - 2. More than once I have helped folks who have ran out of gas.
    - 3. Jeff Foxworthy says you might be a red neck if the value of your car doubles if you fill up the gas tank. Perhaps that's why some folks run out of gas.
  - B. However, some try to make life's journey with a dollar's worth of gas.
  - C. The attitude of many folks is to do as little as they can get by with on the job, or in school or even in church.
  - D. Christ taught the lesson of the second mile in
  - E. We need to do more than is expected- more than the minimum.
- I. Jesus Taught Us To Do More Than The Minimum.
- A. Go the second mile- Matt. 5:41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.
    - 1. The Roman's required anyone compelled to do so to carry the soldiers back one mile.
    - 2. Some of the Jews marked out the milepost from their home and would drop the back on the spot.
  - B. The wise virgins did more than the minimum- (Matt. 25:1-13) "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise

took oil in their vessels with their lamps. "But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. "And at midnight a cry was heard: `Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, `Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, `No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, `Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, `Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

1. They took their lamps and plenty of oil.
2. If the bridegroom came early, they were ready.
3. If he came late, they would still be ready.

C. The second mile brings satisfaction, a sense of accomplishment, joy.

1. The first mile is required.
2. The second mile is love.
3. Go the second mile with you spouse, you kids, your boss, etc.

II. We Receive More Than The Minimum.

A. We should be thankful that God did not try to see how little he could do for us- Eph. 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

B. The Lord went eh Second Mile.

1. Not just life- but abundant life- Jn. 10:10- The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

2. Not only slaves- but also sons- 1 Jn. 3:1-2 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is

C. Blessings- more than the minimum- Eph. 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

### III. We Should Live Each Day With The Idea To Do More Than The Minimum.

- A. We should aim to be more than average.
  - 1. The average person in Noah's day drown.
  - 2. The average Israelite man who left Egypt died in the wilderness.
  - 3. Would you want to be the average man in Sodom and Gomorrah?
- B. It takes more than the minimum to be saved- 2 Cor. 5:14-15 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.
- C. It takes more than the minimum to be a true disciple (Luke 14:26-27, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. V33 "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.)

### CONCLUSION

- A. We have received more than the minimum from the Lord.
- B. We must be willing to give more than the minimum to the Lord.
- C. Are you willing to go the second mile, will you give your all?