

## Have You Benefited from a 'Second-Miler'?

### Matthew 5:41

**“And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.”**

In his teaching, Jesus has taken the Roman law beyond its regulation from merely serving soldiers, and extending it to *'whoever,'* therefore, teaching his disciples to become compelled (here the word *compelled* has a strong emphasis on having an *inner desire*) to be servants to all. The term *'Second-Miler'* is willing to go beyond the first mile of the Christian life (Seeking God First, remaining daily in prayer, continually studying and applying His word to one's life, attending worship and small groups regularly). The Second Mile requires more of us in our commitment to Christ and others around us in need; it requires sacrifice, time, compassion, and the love of God within us, and our service on behalf of others.

As Dr. O.S. Hawkins writes in his article, *Go the Second Mile*, “This miracle mile, the second mile, is motivated by the *love of Christ*. Incidentally, the second mile is the mile our Lord Himself walked. He knows the road very well. It was love that took Him on the miracle mile to the cross. Oh, He journeyed the first mile. He stepped out of heaven and into human flesh. He walked the mandated mile that was motivated by the law. He kept every detail of the law. But He also went the second mile, motivated by His own love for us. He who made the stars with a spoken word and formed the universe, the One who formed and fashioned us with His own hands, said, “I love you, and I will walk with you.” But we went our own way. Then He said, “I will go the second mile.”

Jesus came down from heaven, born to the virgin Mary, walked the *'First Mile'* by living a sinless life on earth for 33 years, and chose the lonely, *'Second Mile'* for you and me as He fixed His eyes on our redemption at the cross. The question for you and I today is, **'Who benefits if you and I are willing to be a 'Second-Miler'?** Remember, a *'Second-Miler'* is willing to go beyond his/her own needs, struggles, hardships and to help **“bear another's burdens” (Galatians 6:2) along their journey by coming along** beside them. This may at times require helping them back on their feet again, encouraging them to press on and take another step, to re-focus their eyes on the ONE who can truly restore their hope. It may require us to lead them to the True Shepherd for the first time. His name is JESUS by the way, who is waiting with open arms to receive them. **Nevertheless, God's desire may be for us to continue to 'go the second mile' with them. This seems to be a small sacrifice in comparison to the “second mile to the cross”** Jesus traveled for us.