

# Being “Of Christ” Means Going The “Second Mile”

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 5:38-48*

A. **Key statement of the morning:** “If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.”

1. The historical and cultural background behind *Matthew 5:41*.

2. And so what would Jesus’ audience have thought as they heard his teaching?

B. Jesus, in “proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom,” naturally expounds on the “character” of the kingdom of heaven—this is one example of kingdom citizen character.

## I. The “Second Mile Markers” in the Sermon on the Mount

A. Anger (*Matthew 5:21-26*).

B. Lust (*Matthew 5:27-30*).

C. Divorce (*Matthew 5:31-32*).

D. Oaths (*Matthew 5:33-37*).

E. Retaliation (*Matthew 5:38-42*).

F. Interactions with enemies (*Matthew 5:43-48*).

G. In a “do your duty” sort of society, Jesus challenges us to be extraordinary representatives.

## II. The “Second Mile Markers” Beyond the Sermon on the Mount

A. In our work ethic (*Colossians 3:22-24*).

B. In the stewardship of our material blessings (*1 Timothy 5:8; Galatians 6:10*).

C. In our defense against:

- all forms of covetousness (*Luke 12:13-21; Colossians 3:5*).

- all forms of sexual immorality (*Ephesians 5:3*).

- the abuse of our God-given mouths (*Ephesians 5:4*).

D. In the showing of honor (*Romans 12:10*).

E. In our interactions with others (*Romans 12:14-21*).

F. In our marriages (*1 Peter 3:1-7*).

G. In our collective work as members of the body of Christ (*Rom 14:13; 15:1-2; Phil 2:3-4*).

## III. Implications of Going the “Second Mile”

A. The second mile comes after the first mile (*1 Corinthians 15:58*).

B. The second mile is the attitude mile—the “smile mile” (*Philippians 2:14-15*).

C. The second mile is where lights burn brightest for God’s glory (*Matthew 5:14-16*).

D. The second mile demands belief-based action (*Matthew 7:21-23*).