**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Miracle Mile |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Matthew 5:38-42 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1680 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
	1. We live in a very self-centered world.
		1. Someone has well said that people who are all wrapped up in themselves make very small packages.
	2. How will we learn the joy of a self-less and Christ-filled life?
	3. Matthew 5:38-42
		1. “Go with him twain” means “Go with him two.”
	4. The miracle mile is the second mile.
		1. Jesus said that if anyone forces you to go with him one mile, then go with him two miles.
	5. Today’s message will look at the following aspects of the miracle mile:
		1. The principle of the miracle mile.
		2. The practice of the miracle mile.
		3. The power of the miracle mile.
2. the principle of the miracle mile (matthew 5:41)
	1. To know what the miracle mile is about, we must first understand the background.
		1. The Romans occupied the land of Palestine for about 100 years.
		2. They had learned something from the Persians, who had at one time ruled the world.
			1. The Persians would not only conquer a people, but they would also use those people in a very advantageous way.
				1. They would make them do certain menial tasks for them.

For example, a Persian soldier might have someone in a conquered land carry his knapsack or weapons for one mile.

* + - * 1. The Romans learned from the Persians that this was a wonderful plan.
		1. The Romans would often have a Jewish citizen carry their backpack, weapons, etc., for them.
			1. By law, the Jewish citizen would have to carry this burden for a mile.
				1. This was humiliating to the Jewish people.
		2. It is said that every Jewish boy had marked off a mile post from his house.
			1. He would have known exactly how far a mile was.
			2. He would carry that burden for a mile, but not one step further.
		3. This was the situation in Jesus’ time.
			1. It caused much resentment and rebellion.
		4. According to historians, the Roman soldiers enjoyed humiliating the Jewish people by making them carry that burden for a mile.
			1. The Romans were the occupational army at that time.
	1. Jesus was preaching, and he said that if anyone commanded you to go with him a mile, then go with him two miles.
		1. Matthew 5:41
		2. The principle that Jesus Christ was talking about is that you must do more than what is required by the law.
	2. The Pharisees and scribes were very careful to keep the law of God, or so they thought.
		1. Matthew 5:20
		2. They kept the letter of the law.
			1. They kept the law in a punctiliar way.
		3. But Jesus said that unless you are willing to go beyond what the scribes and the Pharisees do, you will not enter into the kingdom of Heaven.
	3. What the Pharisees had and what many people today have is minimum morality.
		1. They have a loveless legalism.
	4. The principle of the miracle mile is to do more than what is required.
		1. The Pharisees were willing to do just as much as was required and no more.
	5. Someone has said that life is really lived on three levels:
		1. The hellish level that returns evil for good.
		2. The human level that returns good for good and evil for evil.
		3. The heavenly level that returns good for evil.
			1. Matthew 5:44
			2. Those who require you to carry their burden a mile, carry it two.
				1. Do more than what is expected and required.
				2. Go beyond the minimum morality.
1. the practice of the miracle mile (matthew 5:38-42)
	1. Matthew 5:38-41
		1. If we read this Scripture carelessly, then we may get the idea that Jesus is teaching passivism.
		2. Jesus wasn’t teaching that Christians are to be doormats or that we can never defend ourselves, our homes, or our loved ones.
			1. Matthew 5:17-18
				1. Jesus believed all of the Old Testament law.

Part of the Old Testament law is that we are to defend our loved ones, our liberties, and our rights.

* + 1. Jesus was quoting Exodus 21:24-25.
	1. The Bible is against lawlessness; the Bible is against anarchy.
		1. We live in a generation of people who are defending the lion’s right to eat the lamb.
			1. Jesus never did that.
		2. Jesus taught that there should be civil justice.
	2. The Bible doesn’t teach passivism, and yet, the Lord said, “Resist not evil. If someone slaps you on the cheek, then turn the other.”
		1. Matthew 5:39
		2. This is not contradictory if rightly understood.
		3. The Apostle Paul gave a commentary on this passage.
			1. Romans 12:17-13:4
				1. “If it be possible…”

Sometimes, it is not possible.

* + - * 1. We are not to take personal revenge.
	1. The Bible teaches that evil must be restrained.
		1. 1 Peter 2:13-14
			1. This is what God says to those who are citizens.
			2. “Every ordinance of man” refers to man’s laws.
		2. We live in a wicked society, and the wickedness of human nature has to be restrained by law.
		3. Just to lay down in front of sin, error, evil, and wickedness is neither just nor kind.
			1. It doesn’t protect the innocent, and it doesn’t restrain wickedness.
		4. You cannot legislate morality.
			1. There is no law on Earth that can make someone moral.
			2. There is not a law written that can make you love me or make me love you.
			3. Therefore, you have to legislate against immorality.
		5. Laws are not here to make us good.
			1. Laws are here because we are bad and have to be restrained.
	2. When the Lord tells us to turn the other cheek and resist not evil, He is teaching us that we are not to take personal vengeance.
		1. We are not to stand up for our so-called rights.
			1. God has ways of taking vengeance; God has ways of protecting.
				1. And there are times when we ourselves have to protect our loved ones.
		2. Matthew 5:39
			1. In Bible times if you wanted to make a Jewish person angry, then there were two things that you could do:
				1. One was to spit in his face.
				2. The other was to slap him.

These were the ultimate acts of contemptuousness.

* + - 1. We are to go the second mile when our dignity is degraded.
				1. Matthew 26:67

They spit in the face of Jesus.

They slapped Jesus with an open hand.

Jesus did not slap back.

He simply turned the other cheek.

* + 1. When your dignity is degraded, when someone insults you with an open hand or with a vile word, just turn the other cheek.
			1. Go the second mile.
	1. Matthew 5:40
		1. Our Lord is not saying that we’re not supposed to protect our property if someone is trying to steal it.
		2. This is a law case.
			1. You have done something wrong, and someone has sued you.
			2. They have gotten a judgment against you.
				1. You don’t have anything with which to pay, so they take your shirt.
			3. The Lord says to give him your coat, also.
				1. Don’t just simply pay what is due.

Go the second mile.

Don’t just do the minimum.

Do more than is required.

* 1. The Lord shows us what to do when someone has a need and comes to us for help.
		1. Matthew 5:42
		2. Matthew 5:46-47
			1. If we just love those who love us or just give to those who give to us or just help those who help us or just do what is required and no more, anyone can do that.
			2. We don’t owe them anything, but Jesus says to give to them.
				1. Don’t turn them away.
		3. 1 Timothy 6:17-18
		4. 1 John 3:17-18
		5. The Lord is not saying that if someone tells you to give him your billfold, your shoes, or your house that you are to do that.
			1. That is a false and extreme interpretation.
			2. There is a kind of giving that does not help but hurts.
				1. All Scripture has to be compared to Scripture.
				2. 2 Thessalonians 3:10

You don’t give to a professional beggar or to a fraudulent person.

You don’t encourage the alcoholic by giving him more money to buy alcohol with.

* 1. We don’t simply pay what we owe.
		1. We look beyond what we owe to see what they need and what we can do with that which God has put in our hands.
	2. By turning the other cheek, by going beyond what is required of us in a court of law, or by helping those whom we don’t owe anything to, we are doing what Jesus calls “going the second mile.”
		1. There is the law mile and the legal mile.
		2. There is the love mile and the extra mile or the miracle mile.
1. the power of the miracle mile
	1. When we begin to live this way, it will transform our lives.
		1. It will give us joy and power that we could never have any other way.
	2. It will change our attitudes.
		1. The second mile is the smile mile.
			1. The first mile is the slave mile.
		2. In the first mile, we are required to go just that far; therefore, we are the victims.
			1. In the second mile, we are the victors.
		3. In the first mile, we are being controlled.
			1. In the second mile, we are controlling.
		4. The first mile is the law mile.
			1. The second mile is the love mile.
		5. The first mile makes us bitter.
			1. The second mile gives us joy.
		6. In the first mile, we are conquered.
			1. In the second mile, we have conquered ourselves and the one who makes us carry his burden.
		7. The first mile is drudgery.
			1. The second mile is victory.
				1. It changes our attitudes because we are not doing it because we have to, but because we want to.

Because the Lord has taught us to.

* 1. It will make us a success.
		1. All successful people are almost always second-milers.
		2. The reason that some people are not successful in their spiritual life is that they are first-milers.
			1. They are simply doing what they think is required.
		3. The people who just simply watch the clock on their jobs are only doing what is required of them and what they are paid to do.
			1. If we only do what we are paid to do, then we will never be paid for what we have not done.
		4. The first mile, we are being controlled; we are forced to do it.
			1. But the second mile, we are in control.
		5. The second mile is the mile that brings success in any endeavor in the physical realm and the spiritual realm.
	2. It is the key to better relationships.
		1. Therefore, it is the key to witness.
			1. It opens a door to witness to others.
1. CONCLUSION
	1. Jesus, the Son of God, went the second mile.
		1. All of His life was the life of the second mile.
	2. Even in the Garden of Eden, God went the second mile.
		1. Adam and Eve sinned against God.
		2. One would think that God would stay up in Heaven and let Adam and Eve try to find Him, but God sought them.
			1. Genesis 3:9
	3. Jesus left Heaven and came to this Earth; He went the second mile.
		1. Romans 5:8
		2. We deserved the penalty of the law and justice, but Jesus came to give grace and mercy.
		3. Such a wonderful Savior is Jesus.
			1. He went the second mile for us, and He wants to save you today.
	4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
	5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
		1. Romans 3:23
		2. Romans 10:9-10
		3. Romans 10:13
		4. Acts 16:31
		5. John 3:16