

Westfield Sermon notes

Title: Second Mile Service

Readings: Matthew 5:38ff

Preacher: James Fenton

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This sermon can be found at: <http://www.westfieldurc.org/worship/sermons/>

Sermon Notes / Comments:

- It is amazing that the God who created the universe with his Word, takes the time to call sinners into repentance and saints into service.
- God never asks us to do anything that is inconsistent with his will, his character and his nature.
- When we look through the Holy Bible we find that every command is inline with the character, mind and will of God
- We are told in this Bible passage that we are to give more than what we are asked to give!
- According to the Lord Jesus we should give 200%, double what is expected / asked to do. This is second mile service
- Two main points:
 1. The principle explained / in theory
 2. The principle enacted / in practice
- Blackpool Rock → the word Blackpool goes right the way through it. The Bible is just like this. The theme of God's love and our redemption runs right the way through it. Like the rock it doesn't matter where you break into it!
- William Graham Scroggie describes the Bible as "The Unfolding Drama of Redemption" (the book of that same title).
- God makes the perfect creation and something goes wrong, that beautiful perfection gets tainted by sin. God could have removed mankind from existence – but no, because of his grace he kills another animal and clothes them. He goes a step further in mercy.
- We are told that the thoughts of man was only and continually evil. God repents that he ever created man!!
- Then we see God going the second mile → when Noah found grace from God when he saved him from the flood. (Gen 6:5-8). God instead of destroying the World went the second mile.
- We also see this second mile service in the convent and grace (Ex 24:7f).

- God would reward them (Israel) with their obedience. But man broke the covenant and did those things that he should not do. But still. God went the second mile with the covenant of grace.
- It is a very good thing that we are not saved by what we do, or saved by what we don't do but saved by what Christ has done for us.
- 1900 Century evangelist W.P. Nicholson, 'If only we had to bend our little finger some of us would claim we do it better than others'
- God goes the second mile with the two priesthods 1) the Levi and the 2) Melchizedek (Jesus). The first was sinful the second was sinless.
- We even note that God calls his servants twice God often calls his servants twice eg: Abraham, Samuel, Jonah and Saul (Gen 22, 1 Sam 3:10, Acts 9:3f).
- It is so important that God calls us a second time.
- Church Notice: "If you are born once you die twice, but if you are born twice you will die once.
- There are two births, once of the flesh and once of the spirit
- There are two advents one Christmas, and the second when he returns a second time for those that are looking for him.
- Are you looking for him? Daily?
- Northern Ireland Railways advert: "100s of old sleepers which would make excellent Firings". There are many in the church today that are old sleepers. I wonder what they have left when their works are tried? Only Gold and silver will remain, wood, hay and stubble are burnt up.
- Too many of us are on a go slow, working to rule. There is no evidence of that second mile service. We are going through the motions.
- We need to go through a second mile service with the Bible. It is a shame that people will sit and watch a tv programme for hours, but when the preacher goes on longer than 10-15mins they complain
- We need second mile service in prayer. If you want to know what the spiritual temperature of the church is go to the prayer meeting
- We need second mile separation from the world. We need people to go the second mile who are prepared to go in conflict with the world.

Questions / thoughts and areas for discussion

- Read through the above and the Bible passages. What it is saying to you?
- Chat with someone else and ask them what they think?
- Are you seriously looking for Jesus' return
- How do you go the second mile with God?
- What type of Christian are you?
- Be specific how can you show that second mile service to someone this week?

Please note these are Mark's thoughts etc on the sermon and may not be the Preacher's!