



GO2

22 DAY DEVOTIONAL

**GO
TWO**

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Go Two: 22 Day Devotional

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GO TWO

In Matthew 5-7 Jesus delivers the greatest sermon ever preached. In our Bibles it's called, "The Sermon On The Mount." But this is a poor title because it only tells you where the sermon took place, not the actual content of the sermon. I believe, as others have stated before me, a better title for this sermon is, "The Sermon On The Monarchy." This title says exactly what Jesus *was* talking about. In this sermon, he tells us what it looks like to live in a Kingdom. A *new* Kingdom. One that is more powerful than any that has been or will ever be. An unseen Kingdom. One of the heart and mind. One that supersedes all earthly allegiances. The only one where we all arrive as immigrants, are then called citizens and He, the King, welcomes us as children, home. In this sermon, he shows us the Way.

In my opinion, one of his most important statements in the message can be summed up in these two words, Go two. In Matthew 5:41 Jesus says, "And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." The Roman law known as the "law of the mile" stated that a Roman soldier or citizen could force Jews to carry their baggage 1,000 paces (also known as a Roman mile) in any direction they chose. The Jews hated this law because the Romans would use it to remind them Rome was in charge and they were not. It was in this context that Jesus looked at his Jewish audience and said, "when someone forces you to go one mile, *go two*."

In other words, that thing that you already dislike doing, maybe even hate, if it could bless someone and show them the love of Jesus...do more of it. Not just a *little* more, but *twice* as much! Go TWO! Not for your glory, not for your fame or your name, but to show them a glimpse of what Christ has done for you, to open a door for their soul to *see* and *experience* the Kingdom of God where we are all equal and all here to love and serve because he first loved and served us.

My hope for you is that over the next 22 days, we will journey together into the second mile. We will listen to the words of Jesus from his "Sermon on the Monarchy" and really try to apply them daily into our lives. While relying on his strength, and trust me it will take his strength, we will seek to reveal more and more of the Kingdom to those around us and within ourselves by taking every opportunity to Go TWO.

—KORY



OML
OG

Father, please help me to follow the way of Jesus. Help me not stay in the first mile and settle for what's expected and what's natural. I ask that you would show me the unexpected and the supernatural as I follow Jesus into the *second mile*.

Help me GO TWO.

AMEN

**GO
TWO**



DAY 1

FIRST MILE FAITH

“And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.”

MATTHEW 5:41

We now know the context of this statement. His Jewish audience may have audibly gasped when he said this. They did not even want to go the first mile so why in the world would they do a second mile. More importantly, what does this mean for us today? How do we practically live in the extra mile?

Maybe you do the laundry every day and that's one of your roles in the household. You don't love it, but it's one way you contribute. What if today, you did the laundry, ironed, folded the clothes, and wrote a small encouraging note for each of your family members on top of that? Perhaps it's your turn to pick up the kids from practice on your way home from work. What would it look like to make that simple task special? Maybe it's asking tons of questions about their day on the ride or showing up playing their favorite music in the car or taking them by that ice cream shop you know they love.

The second mile is mostly about two things—*freedom and intentionality*. When we go two, we are saying with our actions that neither Rome nor a government owns us, our workplace doesn't own us, other's expectations do not own us, a sinful selfish mindset doesn't own us. We are FREE! We are free to serve. Free to do the unexpected. Free to watch God take our natural into the supernatural by just being intentional with our time, tasks, and mindset. The apostle Paul says in Galatians 5:1, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.” We show our freedom over sin and evil when we step into the second mile.

Ultimately, when we go two, it begs the question, “Why?” The Roman soldier would stop and ask, “Why are you going another mile for me?” Your spouse may say, “Why did you put in all that extra effort today? You didn't have to do that.” Your family or coworkers may inquire, “What's gotten into you? Why are you helping us so much more than normal?”

That's it. Right there. Those questions are the door the second mile opens every time and our answer is simple, but profound—“Well, honestly, I just love that Jesus went the second mile for me, so I just wanted to show you some of the grace and love He keeps showing me.”

SECOND MILE STRENGTH

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

MATTHEW 5:38-39

A Roman soldier could slap a Jew with no penalty. But if the Jew retaliated, he or she would be punished. So this was not a cute cultural colloquialism, this was real life for Jesus’ audience. But instead of saying, “Stand up for yourself and fight back!” He made a statement that has echoed through history, “Turn the other cheek.”

In other words, show your true strength, not in how hard you can hit, but in your ability to not have to strike at all. The strongest person is he or she who has self-control. I’ll say it again, true strength is the ability to control oneself.

So today, when they raise their voice, you lower yours. When they say something harsh, you respond with something kind. When they post that mean comment on your social media, you post a nice one on theirs. In doing so, you are showing your true strength. We don’t have to fight back, because Jesus fights for us. We don’t have to hit back, punch back, curse back, or comment back because we have real strength in Him.

Jesus said we all know the way of the world, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” But Jesus knew if we follow that way of thinking, it wouldn’t be long before we all lose our bite and our sight. A world toothless and blind. But Jesus came to bring the words of life and to open the eyes of the blind to a better way. Today we step into the second mile, show our true strength found in Him and choose to be free and turn the other cheek.

**Disclaimer: Though the context of this passage was dealing with real physical abuse, Jesus was not endorsing abuse in any way. He knew the way to change Rome and the world at that time was one soldier’s heart at a time. Today, if you find yourself in an abusive environment, yes please, do not retaliate in kind. But also, please contact someone and get help. Whether it’s physical, sexual, verbal, or another type of harmful abuse in the home or workplace, we want to help you find your strength in that situation, and we want to help you heal from the abuse.*

WEALTH & WRONGS

“And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.”

MATTHEW 5:40

True wealth is not found in what you have, but in what you can give. The Jews in Jesus’ audience would often have their possessions taken by Romans just because they could. Jesus tells them, when they take from you, show them real generosity and give them more. He also uses the legal phrase, “sue you.” This implies that you may be in the wrong. So here he is also speaking to going above and beyond to make things right with people.

In either case, Jesus himself models this for us daily. We all take from him. We are grace addicts often treading all over his love and mercy towards us with the way we live and treat each other. What does he do? He keeps giving us more grace and more mercy. He keeps modeling generosity towards us and looks to us to do the same for those around us.

What would it look like to practice true generosity today? To go the extra mile when it comes to our stuff or finances? What if you could feel wealthy today, not by gaining more, but by giving more?

DAY 4

OPEN HANDS

“Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.”

MATTHEW 5:42

There is a saying I hear that goes something like... *Our lives are like a river. God gives to us so that it can flow through us to those around us. But what happens when you stop up a river? It becomes a nasty swamp.* In Matthew 5:42 Jesus is encouraging us to remove the dam. To keep the river flowing in our lives. One way we do this is by living and leading generous lives with open hands.

Let's get practical. What can you give away today? How can you practice generosity today? Maybe someone will ask you for lunch or gas money, and you'll have the real life opportunity to live this out. But instead of giving the amount they ask, you'll give double because you go two. But for most of us, we may not be asked directly. How can we still practice generosity? Plan for it!

Obedience is when we follow God's word. In our finances this means we tithe (give the first 10% of our increase back to God). But that's not what we're talking about here. We're talking about generosity! This is when we go above and beyond obedience. When we step out of the first mile and into the second. As our hands open to bless those around us, they also stay open to receive God's blessing towards us.

DAY 5

SECRET PLACES

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

MATTHEW 6:5-6

It's good to pray with people. It's good to give thanks before a meal, pray before a ball game, or join in corporate prayer during a church service. But when was the last time you prayed? Just you and God. Hopefully it was yesterday when you finished your Day 4 devotional. But realistically, before we began this journey into the second mile—when was the last time you set time aside and talked with your Father? Today is simple, but the impact could not be more profound in our day to day lives. Today, we pray.

For the next 5-10 minutes find a place all to yourself. Maybe head downstairs into that quiet room in the house, or go out to the driveway and sit in your car, or kneel in your closet because that's the only place you can be alone. Wherever you have to go to get alone and get with God, go there now.

I'm going to guide you through a simple way to pray, and I would encourage you to speak these things out loud and also write them down. You may be surprised what God will show you when you look back at your prayers in the days and weeks ahead.

PRAY
THROUGH
THE
ACRONYM
A.C.T.S.

ADORATION

Start by adoring God. By that I mean, before we ask for things or talk about our woes and worries, let's focus on who God is. Think of every positive adjective you can think of that describes God, and say it and write it down.

Example: God you are awesome! You are kind. You are King! You are loving. You are good. You are...

CONFESSION

Now we let it out. Anything you have done wrong or an area you know you're coming up short. Tell it to God. Be candid. Be raw. Be real. Do not sugarcoat it. He already knows the truth so tell him like it really is. In any sin you're dealing with, he wants to heal you and help you. He does not shame you. He sets you free. Confession is more about your healing than it is his hearing, so let him have it... all of it.

Example: God, I lied to my coworker last week. God, I could've helped my spouse when they needed it, but I was selfish with my time instead. God, I keep going to that substance to numb myself... Father, I...

THANKSGIVING

This is a fun one! Now that we've adored God for who he is and came face to face with why we need him through confession, we get to THANK HIM! Yes! That's it! Just start thanking God for everything you can think of...go!

Example: Thank you, God for forgiving me for everything I just confessed! Thank you for life! Thank you for my family! Thank you for sunshine! Thank you for snow! Thank you for breath! Thank you for Jesus! Thank you for my toothbrush! Thank you for...

SUPPLICATION

Supplication means "to humbly ask for something." That is exactly what we do now. Just ask God for anything that you'd like him to bless you with or provide. Remember, God always answers our prayers with a "Yes. No. Or later." But trust, that as you ask, He is listening intently and answering diligently.

MAKE IT A SECOND MILE PRAYER

Before you say amen—before you move on with your day—take the last few minutes and just pray something like this, "God, I've done a lot of talking, now I want to listen to anything you have to say. Please open my ears, mind, and heart, I'm listening." Now take a deep breath and just listen.

AMEN.

Enjoy your day in the second mile!

DAY 6

GO FAST

“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

MATTHEW 6:16-19

Jesus makes the statement, “when you fast.” In other words, fasting is not something that only the pastors, worship leaders, or super spiritual people do; it’s something every Christ follower does. To put it bluntly, it’s as if he is saying fasting is first mile faith. It’s a given. It’s normal. For some of us, today is going to be a gamechanger.

If you want to go fast in your spiritual journey, you need to fast. By slowing down and giving up something, you actually accelerate and gain more spiritually. Jesus describes true fasting, second mile fasting, as a regular part of life that no one needs to know about except your Father in heaven. Fasting is when you give up something to focus more on God. Traditionally, it is when we give up physical nourishment (food & drink) to remind ourselves of what Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, “man does not live on bread alone, but on the very word of God.” We can also fast from things that are not food, like social media, TV, caffeine, etc.

I actually had a friend in college that fasted from shoes for a week. Yep, he walked around barefoot from class to class at the University of Florida for seven days. He gave up the comfort of shoes and said every time he felt the concrete under his feet, or experienced the pain of a pebble, or when he would

wash his feet at night before bed, he was reminded of all of those around the world who don’t have shoes, and he thanked God for all the ways He had blessed him.

This is what fasting does. It focuses us on what’s really important, God and His presence. We don’t fast for our glory, but rather we pray and fast to experience more of His glory.

SECOND MILE SIGHT

“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”

MATTHEW 6:22-23

There is an old saying, that the eye is the window to the soul. But if the eye is the window, Jesus may be saying we have some burglars breaking in through that window and robbing us of the light within. Most believe Shakespeare was referring to this verse found in Matthew when he made that famous statement. The idea is you can look someone in the eyes and perhaps see their true self. By looking into someone's eyes, you can better understand their thoughts and emotions. But Jesus wasn't just talking about looking into people's eyes, he was more interested in what our eyes are looking at.

What are you watching? What kind of shows do you indulge in? Who do you follow on social media? What are you looking at? Jesus is saying that if we consistently stare at darkness and evil, do not be surprised when we see more darkness and evil in our own lives. However, the good news is, if we can learn to raise our gaze and look at things that bring life and hope, our lives and hearts and bodies can be full of light!

So today, it's time to get that second mile stare, to raise our gaze and lighten up!

A STEP PAST FORGIVENESS

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

MATTHEW 5:21-24

Jesus says, “If YOU are offering your gift at the altar and there remember YOUR brother has something against YOU...” The idea here is that we are worshippers. We are givers. This is and should be our regular pattern—worshipping at the altar and giving to God and His Kingdom. These practices are mile one. So let’s start by making sure we’re in the first mile today. Are you worshipping Jesus? What does your worship really look like? Is it a priority or something you get to if there’s time? Are you giving? What does your giving really look like? Is it a priority and privilege? Or is it only something you do when there’s a little leftover?

So Jesus maps out what’s expected in mile one, then Jesus tells us what second mile worship, second mile giving, and second mile living looks like. He says, if while we’re worshipping in song, or giving of our tithes and offerings and talents, we realize we’ve wronged someone, we need to make it right. He’s saying real worship comes from the heart, and he wants your

heart in the right place. To put it simply, it’s like he’s saying, “If you’re serving at church on Sunday, or if you’re about to start singing on Sunday, or before you send over your tithe online and you realize someone is upset with you, or you realize you’ve done something wrong to offend someone... Then stop what you’re doing, go to them, call them, text them, and do your best to make it right.” When we do this, when we do our best to “live at peace with everyone” (Romans 12:18) then our worship, or giving and serving, is acceptable to God.

So will you step into the second mile with me today? Will you not just seek to forgive and be forgiven, but go the extra mile and seek actual reconciliation? What if God’s people practiced this daily? The actual ministry of reconciliation could transform families, cities, and nations.

LOVE THEM ANYWAY

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”

MATTHEW 5:43-45

This one is tough! Yesterday made sense at least. If I have wronged someone then yes I should go make it right. We get that. It makes sense to our moral compass. But this one?! Love your enemies?! Pray for them?! This is one of the most countercultural statements ever made by Jesus.

Stepping into the second mile means people are never our enemy. It's the sin within people that is the enemy. So when someone hurts us and causes us pain the world would say, “they are bad people, and you should hate them.” But Jesus would say, “those people are trapped in sin, just like you were. When you were my enemy, I laid down my life to set you free. Would you do the same for them?” In other words, when we remember our own sin and how much God has done for us, we can't have enemies. We just have missions. When people hurt us they become our mission. We want to see them set free from that sin so what do

we do? We pray for them. We pray for those who hurt us. We pray for those who gossip about us. We pray for those who took from us or left us or caused us pain. The Kingdom of God, the second mile Kingdom is one where we don't see enemies, but rather we just see captives who need to be set free. It is then our privilege to pray for their emancipation.

LIKE ADELE SAYS, “HELLO, IT’S ME...”

“For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?”

MATTHEW 5:46-47

MILE
1

Love those who love you. Be nice to those who are nice to you. Help those who help you.

MILE
2

Love those who do not love you. Be nice to those who are not nice to you. Help those who do not help you.

I LOVE how practical Jesus gets here. He takes a lofty concept like loving those who hate you and makes it super tangible. He brings it all the way down to a greeting. Who do you say hello to when you arrive at work? Who do you make eye contact with and acknowledge when you walk into school, or at home? More importantly, is there anyone you avoid?

There it is. Right to the heart of the matter. Now let’s press a little further... Why do you avoid them? Maybe they hurt you in the past? Refer back to day nine. Maybe you wronged them and you feel guilty about it? Refer back to day eight. Perhaps the reason you

avoid them says more about you than it does them. Jesus is inviting us into the second mile in a very practical way today. He’s saying, if there’s anyone you’ve been avoiding because maybe they’re difficult or awkward or annoying, today go say hello to them! Go greet them. Acknowledge them. In doing so, you step out of the cultural norms of this world, and into the unseen Kingdom of God. We were all that person that didn’t deserve the hello. We are all those people who didn’t deserve God’s love. But at the sake of sounding cheesy, God pulled an Adele on all of us and said, “Hello, it’s me...”

He came to us, so let’s go to them.

WORDS MATTER

“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”

MATTHEW 5:33-37

I find one of the greatest ironies of the legal system in many Christian countries, like the USA, is that in order to testify in court you must place your hand on a Bible and “swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God.” But this very Bible says, *do not swear by anything or make an oath on anything—to do so is evil*. You have to admit it’s a little ironic—making an oath on and swearing by the very book that says to not do that.

But the legal system aside, Jesus makes an incredible point. As people, words matter. As Christ followers, words matter even more. The scriptures teach us in Proverbs 18:21 that, “the tongue has the power of life and death.” What we say, when we say it, and how it’s said all matters. We have the opportunity to literally bring life to people and their dreams with our words, or speak death and drive people away from those dreams. But Jesus, like he always does, takes it a step further into the second mile. He says we should be so full of integrity, have so much character on display in the way we live, that we never have to swear by anything or even make a promise. When we say “yes”, we mean yes and people can count on that yes. When we say “no”, we mean no and people do not have to question it. What a beautiful world that would be—never having to second guess each other or layer on “I promise...trust me...I swear...I mean it...” Our yes is yes and our no is no.

As you read this, you may think to yourself, “I never use phrases like ‘I promise’ or ‘I swear’ so I must be good.” But let’s get practical. Have you ever told people you would be there at a certain time and then shown up late? Now I’m not trying to be legalistic, we all have things that happen and cause a bit of tardiness from time to time. But, if you are perpetually late, what are you communicating? It says, “You can’t count on my words.” It strips your words of their integrity and power. But imagine again, if people showed up when they said or fully followed through with what they said they are going to do. If all of us who follow Christ said what we mean and mean what we said, it would be a game changer. Today, let your yes be yes and mean it. When you commit to something big or small, follow through fully. When you say no to something, don’t just say it. Mean it. You’ll find there is a freeing power in a good, honest, and kind, “no.” Step into the second mile today with power and trust in your words!

SECRET GIFTS

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

MATTHEW 6:1-4

Today is a fun one! You get to bless somebody!

Jesus points out how everyone else in “mile one” treats giving. Most people give for glory—we give for a tax write off, or for good PR, or community service hours so we can get a scholarship. All of this isn’t bad, but it’s not the best. He makes it plain when he says that when others see your good works and give you credit that is your reward. So here’s a second mile secret for you—for everlasting rewards give a lot away to help people...*but don’t let anyone know about it.*

Now it’s not a bad thing for people in the world to see good things being done. The Bible even teaches in Matthew 5:16 “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” It’s all about who gets the glory. This is why when your church helps people, it’s great for them to show a video or post it on social media. Not so people can say, “wow that church is awesome.” But so that onlookers can say, “Wow, the God they believe in really does make a difference in people’s lives.”

ON ONE CONDITION

“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

MATTHEW 6:14-15

Now we’re “into the thick of it”! It’s just like Jesus to take it to the next level. Did you catch what he just said here? Take a moment and read those two verses again.

We’ve all probably heard at some point something like, “God’s love and forgiveness is unconditional!” When we hear that, we all say “amen” and thank God for that, right? But let me drop a theological bombshell on you. First, I don’t think God’s love is unconditional. God says He is love. Therefore to be with God, in his presence, is to ultimately receive God’s love. But God has placed one condition for being in his presence for eternity. We must accept the free gift of salvation given through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Accepting a free gift, the best gift is the one condition of God’s love.

Now what about forgiveness? For that, there are two conditions. The first is the same as the condition for love. To receive forgiveness for your sins you simply must accept God’s free gift of Jesus who died in your place. Amazing! That’s enough right there to give you reason to dance around in joy all day! God’s love and forgiveness are free! So good!

But the second condition to forgiveness is...*drum roll please*...you must forgive others. If you do not, God will not forgive you. *And the crowd goes silent.*

This is why we love Jesus. He was all about showing us how to really bring heaven to earth. He is telling us how the real Kingdom operates. It is one where we are so grateful and enamored with how we’ve been forgiven, that we can freely and generously forgive

those who wrong us in life. When we don’t forgive, it’s like drinking poison. It grows the weeds of bitterness in the garden of our soul. We think it’s hurting the person that wronged us, but in reality it’s only hurting us. Many of us have deep wounds and pain inflicted upon us by people throughout our lives. I’ve sat with countless people and heard stories that made my stomach turn and ask God the same question many of us would ask, “how can we forgive them for what they have done?”

The only answer I’ve found that has helped me is this—the more that I understand how much God has actually forgiven me, the easier it is to forgive others. We must remind ourselves that the ground is level at the foot of the cross. We are no better than any other sinner, and but for the grace of God, we would still be the same lost and broken people. Those that hurt us are not evil, they are captives—slaves of sin that need the same freedom we received in Christ. We forgive generously and with grace, because He forgave us of so much more. To follow Jesus is to apprentice in his ways. Thank God he forgives, so we now have the privilege to be like him, forgiving step by step in the second mile.

SECOND MILE STYLE

“And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’”

MATTHEW 6:28-31

Try this with me... Say the following sentences out loud:

God loves me so much more than the trees.

God loves me so much more than the flowers.

God loves me so much more than the birds.

God loves me so much more than the mountains and the skies and the oceans.

God loves me so much!

It is impossible to sustain for long in the second mile life without Christ. It is not an easy journey. But when we go *two*, and truly follow the ways of Jesus, we start to really learn what matters in life. I love that Jesus addresses our clothing. He knows some of us care so much about the way we look, and today you need to know that God thinks you look awesome! He loves you so much and cares so much for you.

The second mile looks good on you!

**MILE
2**

CHALLENGE + PRAYER

Try something with me today or tomorrow when you wake up. When it's time to pick out your clothes try picking them out with God. Talk with him about it. Try looking at your closet and follow these steps:

STEP 1..... *“God, thank you for my clothes! What would you like me to wear today?”*

STEP 2..... Listen and try something on.

STEP 3..... *“God what do you think about these clothes I'm wearing now?”*

STEP 4..... *“Thanks for helping me God! Now about the rest of these clothes...do I really need all of this? Is there any part of my wardrobe that I don't really need that you want me to give away?”*

Side note, this is my favorite part

If so, make a pile of those clothes you don't need.

STEP 5..... *“God are there any clothes or shoes that I really actually like, but you would like me to give those away too?”*

Okay, this is really my favorite part!

If he puts something on your heart, take it out of the closet or drawer and put it in the pile.

STEP 6..... *Give the clothes away!*

STEP 7..... *“Thank you God for taking care of me and for the clothes you provide. Please help me to Go TWO and thank you that I look good today!”*

SECOND MILE SAVINGS

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

MATTHEW 6:19-21

In the greatest sermon ever preached Jesus keeps bringing up money. Over and over he uses lavish language to portray what real wealth looks like and why it's so important. But here, in the words of Bon Jovi, it's a “shot to the heart.”

If you want to know where your heart really is, look no further than your bank account. What costs you the most money? Many would say “it's our kids.” Of course it's your kids! Why? Because you love them! They have your heart. We should spend money on our spouses, our kids, our families, and even healthy hobbies, because we love them. That's a good thing. But even though our families and hobbies are good things, they are not God. Where your money goes, so your heart goes.

This is why Jesus keeps bringing up money. He wants your heart to be in the best place possible. So, Jesus drops the best investing advice you will ever hear in your life. It's better than a 401K, IRA, SIPP, or any earthly savings plan—invest in the Kingdom of God, “For where your treasure is, so your heart will be also.”

BIRD WATCHING

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?...Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble”.

MATTHEW 6:25-27, 34

There is a difference between worry and wonder. There’s a stark contrast between anxiety and anticipation. Wonder has a healthy curiosity and a lightheartedness to it. Anticipation can show preparedness and a positive expectation. It’s okay to wonder about what God may have in store for the future and to anticipate what may be to come. But to worry and be anxious is a far cry from how God created us to live.

In this passage Jesus says birds don’t worry and God feeds them. In other words, the birds know who’s running the show. They know who’s in charge and they trust him. So why do we worry? Why do we get anxious when we think about the future? Could it be because we think we’re in control? Could it be because we have trust issues?

So many of us have valid reasons why we may struggle with trust. We’ve trusted friends, family, and loved ones only to be let down in so many ways. But here’s the good news—you can trust God! You really can! He takes care of birds. Birds! He will take care of you!

“What if they don’t like me? What if they think I’m weird? What if I lose my job for standing up for what’s right? What if they leave me for saying no?” Worry will rob you of stepping into the second mile. Anxiety can paralyze you from moving forward. But remember the words of Jesus, worrying and being anxious doesn’t add a single hour to your life. In fact, they actually take them away.

So in the words of the great theologian Bob Marley:

*Rise up this morning
Smiled with the rising sun
Three little birds
Pitch by my doorstep
Singing sweet songs
Of melodies pure and true
Saying, “This is my message to you”
Singing Don’t worry about a thing
‘Cause every little thing gonna be all right.*

GOD OR \$

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

MATTHEW 6:24

Does it bother anyone else that Jesus didn't say, "You cannot serve God and the devil?" He literally just said the biggest competitor for your heart isn't the devil. He said it's money. Again he brings up money because he cares about our hearts. So why is money such a big competitor? It is because we think if we have enough money, we will be okay. If we have money, we will be safe. If we have enough money, we can keep our family safe. To put it bluntly, left to our own vices, we think money will save us. We think money is our saviour. Or at least that is what we act like sometimes.

To follow Jesus into the second mile means we must let go of our little gods. We must let go of our egos. We must let go of self centeredness, self reliance and selfishness. We must let go of our faith in money over our faith in God. "You cannot serve both God and money." It doesn't get much more clear than that.

So how do we show ourselves that money is not our God? Easy...we give it away.

Now if you're uncomfortable at any point in today's devotional let that act like a highlighter for you. Stop and ask yourself, "Why am I uncomfortable with this topic? Could it be because I care a lot about money? Why is that? Does money have my heart?"

Okay, deep breath because we're about to dive in even deeper.... Time for some more second mile heart surgery!

God invented the principle of the tithe. In the old testament, God commanded that his people would bring the first 10% of their increase to the temple. He actually said that the first 10% of everything you make "belongs to him." By bringing that first 10%, his people were saying "we trust God more than our resources, our possessions and our money. He gets the first and the best. God is priority. He has our hearts." They didn't pick a nonprofit that supported the cause they liked. They didn't give 2% to a charity and 8% to the kids christian school tuition which equals 10% so that's a tithe so we're good right? Nope. The tithe was about relinquishing control and trusting God, not man.

Jesus then takes the first mile of obedience to the law of tithing and invites us into the second mile of generosity. He literally gave everything he had to show us the Kingdom. He laid down his life, not just his finances. He then turns, looks at us and says, "follow me."

Money is just a resource, it is not the *source*.

EYE PATCHES & AMPUTATIONS

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.”

MATTHEW 5:27-30

The Jewish law said don't sleep with someone who's not your spouse. That is adultery. Jesus takes it a step further and says, “Oh you thought just the action of sex with someone that's not your spouse is a sin? Nope. That action started in your mind. In your thoughts. If you are thinking about taking something or someone that is not yours, that is just as sinful.”

Then we get a master class in teaching. Jesus uses hyperbole, also known as sarcasm, to get his point across. Of course he didn't want to start a new eyepatch fashion trend or be responsible for a mass amputation service. He was making a point. If something is bad for you, get rid of it. If something in your life causes you to sin repeatedly, get rid of it. Sin is bad for you. It leads to death and the demise of your relationships, resources, and life in general. So if something causes you to step into sin, get rid of it!

Again Jesus invites us into the second mile when he says it is not just about the action of adultery or any other physical sin for that matter. It is about your head and heart. Your thoughts matter. Your thoughts drive your actions. So if anything is steering your thoughts towards sin, get rid of it.

24K MAGIC

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

MATTHEW 7:12

What do you wish others would do to you today? Honestly though, if it was a dream day, what would the people in your life do to you? Take a moment and write down your answers to that question...

Perhaps you wish someone would buy your lunch, do your laundry, give you some money, or say hello to you when you get to work. Maybe you'd just really like to be treated with some respect today. Wouldn't that be nice? There are probably so many things you wish people would do to you and for you today.

Now here's the magic of the Golden Rule. When we live by it, we actually follow the way of Jesus. Jesus treated us the way he wanted to be treated. Jesus later said that the way we treat people is the way we treat God himself. So to follow Jesus and love God, well, you just need to unleash the magic of the golden rule in your life.

You ready for some second mile magic?

TWEEZERS OR CHAINSAWS

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”

MATTHEW 7:1-5

These verses remind me of Day 13 of our devo where Jesus said if we don’t forgive others God will not forgive us. Here he says whatever standard you use to judge others is the standard God will use to judge you. You see the pattern forming? He is constantly calling us upward to a higher way of living and thinking. One void of hypocrisy where we aspire to treat others the way God has treated us.

If I asked you to write down everything you think your spouse, your significant other, your best friend, your parents, child, or co-worker needs to improve on, how long would that list be? Just think for a moment about it. Now, if I asked what you need to improve on, what would that list look like?

Metaphorically, if we actually wrote both of those lists out honestly, it’s as if Jesus is telling us to rip up and throw away our list about other people’s shortcomings. Then we should frame our list about our shortcomings and work diligently to cross out every one of them before we worry about judging anyone else.

I once heard someone say to a pastor, “I don’t go to church because they’re all full of hypocrites.” The pastor replied, “Well there’s always room for one more.”

In other words, we all struggle with this. We tend to judge others way more harshly than we do ourselves. This is literally why the like button exists on social media. We get to be the judge. “Do I like it? Yes? No! I do not like it! The judge has decreed!” All of us smashing our imaginary gavels in the courtroom of our minds. But then, when people don’t like our posts we get offended. “Why didn’t they like my photo? They must hate me. They must be jealous. I bet they’re talking about me behind my back.” We’re running around as these little micro-judges, but it’s important to remember, that the standard you place on others, is the standard the macro- judge will place on you.

When I read this passage I’m reminded of that famous Billy Graham quote, “It is the Holy Spirit’s job to convict, God’s job to judge, and my job to love.”

PROXIMITY > POSSESSION

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”

MATTHEW 7:7-11

I think this passage has more to do with proximity than it does possessions. Yes it's about a father and the Father giving good gifts to their children. Praise God for that! But did you catch the progression? Ask, seek, knock. Ask, seek, knock. It raises the questions, when do you ask? When do you seek? And when do you knock?

It makes me think of when I was a kid. If I wanted something from my dad and if I was in the same room as him, all I had to do was ask for it. As long as I was in earshot of him, I could just ask. But sometimes, I would leave the room, walk away or just wander off to another part of the house. Then when I wanted something I had to seek my father. I had to go find him. Then other times, often when I was angry at my dad I would run away to my room and shut the door putting a barrier between him and I.

I love this verse because it reminds me that when we are walking with Jesus, led by the spirit, all we have to do is ask. If we're close to God, he hears us the way a father hears a son. But it gets even better. Some of us today may have wandered away from God. Maybe there is a part of our lives that we have just let drift away from what we know is right. Jesus says if we would just turn and seek him, we will find him. He's waiting for us with open arms.

But perhaps some of us today haven't just walked away from God, but we've put a barrier between us and him. We've closed the door on an area of our lives to God and have decided to do it our way. There's good news. You don't have to break down the barrier, work your way back to God and his good graces. All you have to do is knock. God's a gentleman. He doesn't force himself or his will on you. He stands at the door and waits for your invitation. For all who ask, receive, all who seek, find and when we knock he opens the door because he is a good good father who knows how to give the best gifts to his children.

SECOND IS FIRST

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

MATTHEW 6:33

"If you're not first, you're last."

—Ricky Bobby, Talladega Nights

In this comedic film, the sentiment of Will Ferrell's character is one we can all relate to. A race car driver who wants to win at all costs. We want to win! We want to be first! We want the best of life, too!

We started this 22 day journey with that famous line from Jesus, "When someone forces you to go one mile, go two." Jesus knew that what was best, what really transforms our lives and those around us, is when we let go of our selfishness and serve others, not for our own glory, but because he first served us. All the things he talked about throughout this monumental message on a mountain, the sermon on the monarchy as we've called it, will be added to you if you do what is best. You will get it all if you put the right thing first in your life. The Kingdom of God.

But this is an upside down Kingdom. Jesus says it like this, "The last shall be first...The greatest among you is the servant." (Matthew 20:16 and 23:11)

What does it look like to be first in the Kingdom of God? Be last.

What does it look like to be really wealthy in life? Give.

What does it look like to be strong in life? Selfcontrol.

What does it look like to go the extra mile in life? Serve.

But we do not do any of this out of obligation. We do not "have to" do any of it. No, it is so much sweeter than that. We get to do it. We get to be last because Jesus made himself last. We get to give because Jesus gave his life for us. We get to be strong because Jesus showed self control over and over again. We get to serve those who hurt us because Jesus served us when we were hurting him.

We get to Go TWO because Jesus goes the extra mile for us.

God created us, gave us his word, his protection, and presence. Then, when we fell into sin he gave us his son. Jesus lived perfectly for us, he worked miracles and healings and taught us the mysteries of the Kingdom, he died on a cross for us, rose from the grave for, sent his holy spirit to us, he's preparing a place for us and he is coming back for us! Jesus went the extra mile and then some for all of us and today, just like in day one of this journey, he is looking at you and saying follow me into the second mile.

Go TWO.



CITATIONS

INTRODUCTION: Lyrics. "Where we arrive as immigrants, And you call us citizens, And you welcome us as children home." Guerra, Jon. "Citizens." *Keeper of Days*. Thorndale Records, 2020.

DAY 7: The exact origin of the phrase "the eyes are the window of the soul" is unclear. Similar ideas appear in ancient Latin works, plays by William Shakespeare, and in the Bible.

DAY 10: Lyrics. Adele. "Hello, It's Me". 25. XL Records, 2015.

DAY 11: A sworn testimony or oath has many variations by country and in the US varies by state. The statement "Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? So help you God." is asked to the witness – North Dakota Supreme Court Rules, Rule 6.10.

DAY 13: Lyrics. "Into the Thick of It" ©Universal Music Publishing Group.

DAY 16: Lyrics. Marley, Bob. "Three Little Birds." *Exodus*. Island Records, 1977.

DAY 22: Quote. Adam McKay, et al. *Talladega Night: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*. USA, 2006.

**GO
TWO**



*And if anyone
forces you to go
one mile,
go with him
two miles.*

—JESUS
MATTHEW 5:41

