Are You Trying to Make the Trip on an Empty Tank?

(Do more than what is expected of you)

Matthew 5:38-42

Introduction:

1. Before starting a long trip, the wise person fills up his tank with gasoline.  However, some try to make life’s journey with a dollar’s worth of gas.
2. The attitude of many people is to do as little as they can get by with.
   1. Job.
   2. School.
   3. Church.
      1. Have-to.
      2. Minimum motive.
3. Christ taught the lesson of the second mile. Matthew 5:41
   1. A Persian custom adapted by the Romans.
      1. A citizen could be compelled to serve.
      2. The Jews hated it.
   2. Christ’s teaching was a shock.
      1. Go the first mile and you will continue to embitter your life by hating the Romans.
      2. Go the second mile and you will conquer the power of Rome and yourself as well.
4. Do more than is expected – more than the minimum.
5. JESUS TAUGHT US TO DO MORE THAN THE MINIMUM.
   1. Go the second mile. Matthew 5:41
   2. Rich young ruler wouldn’t. Matthew 19:16-22
      1. Went away sorrowful–not happy.
      2. The minimum never brings out the best.
   3. The wise virgins did more than the minimum. Matthew 25:1-13
      1. They took their lamps and plenty of oil.
      2. If the bridegroom came early, they were ready.
      3. If he came late, they would still be ready.
   4. The second mile brings satisfaction, a sense of accomplishment, joy.
      1. When we travel the first mile, conscription is in charge; when we voluntarily continue on the second mile, our choice is in charge.
      2. The first mile is law; the second mile is love.
6. WE RECEIVE MORE THAN THE MINIMUM.
   1. I’m thankful God didn’t try to see how little He could do for man. Ephesians 2:8,9
   2. The Lord truly went the second mile.
      1. Not only taught, but set the example.
         1. Pharisees: “Don’t do as I do, do as I say.” Matthew 23:2,3
         2. Jesus: “Do and teach.” Acts 1:1; Acts 11:38; Hebrews 4:15
      2. Not only died, but died for the unworthy and ungrateful. Romans 5:7-9; 2 Corinthians 5:21
      3. Not just life, but abundant life. John 10:10
      4. Not only slaves, but also sons. 1 John 3:1, 2
   3. Blessings–more than the minimum. Ephesians 3:20
7. WE SHOULD LIVE EACH DAY WITH THE AIM TO DO MORE THAN THE MINIMUM.
   1. We should aim to be more than average.
      1. The average person in Noah’s day drowned.
      2. The average Israelite man who left Egypt died in the wilderness.
      3. K. D. Henry said, “An average church member is one who cusses when he is mad and prays when he’s scared.”
      4. The trouble with some of us is that we have been inoculated with small doses of Christianity that keeps us from catching the real thing.
   2. It takes more than the minimum to be saved.
      1. Duty only is not sufficient motivation. Luke 17:10; Matthew 25:30
      2. Without love, nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
      3. Law compels the first mile; love constrains the second. 2 Corinthians 5:14,15
   3. It takes more than the minimum to be a true disciple.
      1. Service. Matthew 25:14-30; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 14:12-14
      2. Love.
         1. Some love only themselves.

I had a little tea party

This Afternoon at three

“Twas very small-

Three guests in all-

Just I, Myself, and Me.

Myself ate all the sandwiches,

While I drank up the tea.

Twas also I who ate the pie

And passed the cake to me.

* + - 1. Love God more than minimum. Mark 12:30, 31
      2. Second mile with brethren. 1 John 3:17, 18
      3. Love for enemies is outstanding. Matthew 5:43-48
      4. Faith. James 2:14-20
      5. Disciple gives all. Luke 14:33

Conclusion:

1. When we get the second-mile attitude, we will be glad to obey the Lord.
   1. Not, “Must I believe,” but 1 John 5:4.
   2. Not, “Do I have to repent,” but Romans 2:4.
   3. Not, “Is it necessary to confess Christ,” but Matthew 10:32.
   4. Not, “Do you believe that baptism is absolutely essential,” but Romans 6:4.
   5. Not, “Do I have to be faithful, serve, etc,” but Philippians 4:13.
   6. The attitude will not be “how little can I get by with?” but “Speak Lord, your servant hears; command and I will obey”.
2. We have received and we have been promised more than the minimum. 2 Peter 1:11; Revelation 21:4
3. We must be willing to go the second mile. 2 Corinthians 8:5
4. Will you give your all?
5. Two examples:
   1. A man who was retiring early was asked, “To what do you attribute your success?”.
      1. His answer, “Three words:  And Then Some.”
      2. In school, I did what I was told, And Then Some.
      3. Working after school, I did what I was told, And Then Some.
      4. When I started my business, I gave my customers the goods and services what they had a right to expect, And Then Some.
   2. Carpenter.
      1. Stayed late, learned to do new jobs, cut rafters.
      2. “You won’t get paid.”
      3. “Who put up the rafters?”  – stupid, worked, didn’t get paid.
      4. Owned the company in four years.
      5. Some said he politicked his way to the top.
      6. No!  He applied Matthew 5:41.