

A long, straight road stretches into the distance under a cloudy sky. The road is flanked by a field on the right. A road sign is visible on the right side of the road.

living  
in the  
**second**  
mile

MILE

2

# Matthew 5:38-42

- <sup>38</sup> “ You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' <sup>39</sup>But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. <sup>40</sup>And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. <sup>41</sup>If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. <sup>42</sup>Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”

- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus first establishes the validity of the OT Law
- Jesus then begins to expose false interpretation and false practice
- Jesus correctly interprets, explains, and applies the law
  - Hatred amounts to murder
  - Lust amounts to adultery
- “An eye for an eye” was a legal provision, but not the best way to pursue life
  - Insisting on your rights is a miserable way to live

41 “ If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.”

- A Roman soldier could demand that one carry his pack for a mile
- “To force” is “to press into service”
- <sup>32</sup> “ As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross.” Matt. 27:32
- An old Persian word; not a pleasant concept

# Why Go the Second Mile?

- It is liberating
  - The first is owed; the second is given
  - “Serve freely and you are no man’s slave”
- It is charitable
  - Would we like someone to do this for us?
  - Matt. 7:12 “Do to others what you would have them do for you”
- It will surprise someone
  - A great example! Matt. 5:16

# Where to Practice the Second Mile?

- At home
- In the Neighborhood
- At Work
- In the World

# How to Go the Second Mile?

- Do you part... and then some!
- Volunteer
- Work “overtime”
- Give second effort
- Have extra patience
- Go out of your way
- Be nicer than they deserve
- Act as if you are doing it for Jesus!