All In with Jordan Easley

Beyond the Bare Minimum: Living the Second Mile Life

Kingdom Culture | Part 6 | Matthew 5:38-42

INTRODUCTION NOTES There's a big difference between becoming a Christian and being a Christian. Becoming a Christian happens in a moment when you place your faith in Jesus, ask for His forgiveness, receive His salvation, and are born again. But that beautiful moment is just the beginning. Being a Christian is more than a spiritual moment. It's a lifelong journey. It's a daily commitment to live differently, to love radically, and to follow Christ completely. That's the message Jesus communicates in Matthew 5 as He preaches the Sermon on the Mount. He reminds His followers that He hasn't called us to a title but to a total transformation. In today's passage, Jesus challenges us to go against everything our flesh desires: not just to meet expectations, but to go beyond them and live a second-mile life. **KEY POINTS** 1. Refuse to Retaliate Jesus quotes, "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you, don't resist an evildoer. If anyone slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also." In the first century, a backhanded slap was considered a deep insult, not an act of violence. Jesus isn't calling us to be doormats but to respond differently, with grace instead of revenge. Romans 12:19 says, "Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God's wrath." Forgiveness, not retaliation, should be our first response. Jesus calls us to resist the urge to get even and instead trust God's justice. 2. Release Your Rights Jesus said, "As for the one who wants to sue you and take away your shirt, let him have your coat as well." In Jewish law, your coat was considered untouchable; it was your right. Yet Jesus says to voluntarily give more than what's demanded, even when you're entitled to keep it. This principle goes against our instinct to defend ourselves and our entitlements. But Kingdom living means surrendering our rights for the sake of the Gospel. His Kingdom culture requires humility and sacrifice beyond what's expected.

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3. Run the Extra Mile	NOTES
Under Roman law, soldiers could force anyone to carry their gear for one mile. Jewish boys would mark off the exact distance from their homes, walking only what was required, and not one step more. But Jesus said, "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two."	
Going the second mile represents the heart of Christ. It demonstrates love beyond obligation and positions us for God's blessing (Colossians 3:23–24). When you go the first mile, it's required. When you go the second mile, it's rewarded.	
4. Respond with Radical Generosity	
Jesus said, "Give to the one who asks you, and don't turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you." True generosity flows from the heart, not just the wallet. It's about helping meet real needs, not enabling selfish requests.	
As a church and as individuals, we're called to give sacrificially and faithfully, going beyond the bare minimum to meet legitimate needs and reflect God's generosity. Jesus modeled this when He gave far more than we deserved: forgiveness, grace, salvation, and	
eternal life.	

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	What does "going the second mile" look like in your daily life at work, home
	or in your community?

2.	How can you re	lease your rigl	hts or ent	titlements t	this wee	k in a	way that
	reflects Jesus' h	umility and lo	ove?				

Where is God calling you to respond with radical generosity, even when it costs you something?

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