The Biblical Second Mile

Christian

Charles Shong
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No doubt, thousands of sermons have been preached on the second mile Christian. This might just be another one of those sermons challenging Christians to live for the glory of the Risen Saviour Jesus Christ. But how many Christians really know how to walk the second mile biblically for Christ? It is the hope of this preacher to bring Christians back to those days of the Roman Empire to appreciate the significance of the commandment from the Lord to go the second mile for His sake. It is by no means easy simply just to walk another mile. It is easy to talk about the second mile but walking the talk is a totally different matter. The real exacting nature of this walk during those days requires serious reflection over such a simple one-verse commandment from the Lord. This command may seem very straightforward but it does not give the Christian the ramification involved with regard to this second mile walk for the Lord.

Obviously, Christians are supposed to obey the Lord in any circumstances over any issue though they may not fully understand the real objective behind any given commandment from the Lord. This second mile commandment though specific for that particular historical setting during the Roman Empire, it does have a universal application for any given age for Christians to obey the Lord in walking the second mile to please the Lord. The question is whether Christians are willing to obey the Lord to walk the talk. So the ball is back in the court of the child of God to do his utmost seeking to walk in a way to please his Master and Saviour Jesus Christ.
And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.
(Matthew 5:41)

The phrase “second mile” from the Bible is so common in the English language that it has often been quoted in literatures whether in the newspapers, magazines or books. In fact, just very recently, the Straits Time published on 15 May 2008 quoted a lady customer service officer going the second mile to help someone. Moreover the common English-speaking people also use “second mile” very often in normal conversation. Teachers are often exhorted to go the second mile in their teaching profession and many regarded the teaching profession as a calling. As such, teachers are often exhorted to be life examples and role models to their students by walking the second mile beyond the classroom work. Most English speaking people will have no problem understanding the meaning of the phrase “second mile” when used in almost any situation or circumstance. This phrase “second mile” is so common and in fact so popular that even a music pop group made a song out of it many years ago. The lyric of this song has some Christian overtones, in particular, the preaching of the gospel and the group’s rejection of the gospel.

The preacher talked with me and he smiled
He said come and walk with me, come and walk one more mile
Now for once in your life you're alone
But you ain't got a dime
There's no time for the phone
I've just gotta get a message to you
Hold on, hold on
One more hour and my life will be through
Hold on, hold on

Some older folks might know this song. Unfortunately, one of them who composed and sang this song did not hold on long enough. He went on to meet his Maker probably without Christ. But his funeral was held in a church in Florida attended by celebrities including Michael Jackson.

So English speaking people in this world talk about the second mile. How often do they know that this phrase has its origin from the Holy Bible? Perhaps, they do. But do they really know that it was a commandment given out to the disciples by the Creator of the Universe? While the people in this world use this phrase correctly in almost any context, do we Christians
realize the significance of this commandment? Do we know how to obey this commandment from the Lord? Do we know in what context are we to obey this commandment? If we really realize the importance of this commandment, are we willing even to obey this commandment? This command no doubt demands self-denial from Christians who wish to walk the second mile for Christ.
From this short verse given, it is easy to conclude that nothing much is required for the second mile walk. So this second mile walk has often been turned into a second mile talk. This second mile commandment is not so simple as to just walking another mile when someone compels you to walk a mile. It is not simply just walking a mile or two for companionship or to talk for a while during that walk. It is definitely not a stroll in the park. To appreciate the reason behind the giving of this commandment by our Lord, we have to go back in time to the Roman Empire.

During those days, a Roman official could require any subject of the Roman Empire to bear a burden or carry a load for one mile. Some claim that several hundred years before Christ came, the Roman Empire enacted a law that forces every male Jews, young and old, to carry any Roman soldier’s burden when ordered anytime, anywhere. No doubt such a law is true as a man called Simon was compelled to carry the cross for the Lord Jesus Christ to Calvary for the crucifixion. Roman soldiers have no qualms in compelling anyone to do anything anywhere anytime when they see fit. They are the masters and others are their slaves. It was a privilege to be Romans during those days and they had special privileges and treatment above the people they ruled over.

If you were a male Jew, living under the Roman Empire during that time, what would you have done if you were compelled to walk a mile carrying the burden of a soldier? That soldier who approached you to compel you might be very rude and crude. Soldiers were not known to be polite anyway and being soldiers, they are prone to violence. The burden he threw on the ground, which you were supposed to pick up, could be very heavy and even very dirty and smelly. You could probably smell his sweat on the dirt and sweat stained backpack he threw on the ground. You might be very busy having commitment to fulfill that day. However, this soldier came along to mess up your day by compelling you to take a detour for a mile walk with his dirty heavy backpack. What would you have done?

You have two options. Pick up that burden and walk a mile. Or get beaten up and spend a day in jail for defiance. Roman soldiers are not known to be polite and kind. In fact military men are rough and uncouth people especially those who are battle hardened who will not bat an eye to kill if necessary. So turning to violence is very easy for a soldier when provoked. Which option would you choose? I suppose the choice is quite obvious.
What if that day was a Sabbath day? Would you plea to be excused to practise your religious faith? There was no exception when the Lord gave this command. You reckon the Roman soldier respects your faith and is concerned about religious freedom? You think the Roman soldier is sensitive to your religious feelings when he compelled you to walk a mile? If you being a Jew were compelled to walk a mile on a Sabbath day, would you walk a mile let alone two miles?

Not only that, carrying a burden on the Sabbath day violates the Sabbath according to the Jews. The Lord healed a man on the Sabbath day and told him to carry his bed and walk. Guess what the religious Jews told that man who was healed? The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed. (John 5:10) So firstly, carrying a burden is against their law if it was a Sabbath day. There is also such a thing call “a sabbath day’s journey” according to Acts 1:12: Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

Some claim that this Sabbath day’s journey is not more than a mile. If you measure the distance on a map linearly from Mount Olives to the center of the old walled city in Jerusalem, it is indeed less than a mile. So the poor Jew is already breaking the law when he is compelled to walk a mile, if it was a Sabbath day. And now the Lord tells the Jew to walk another mile. Can you imagine how he would feel?

To carry a burden on a Sabbath day is already against the law and to walk two miles is just too much to bear. If you were this Jewish man, how would you feel? What would you do? Would the religious Jews stone you for obeying the Lord and disobeying their Jewish law? Is the Lord encouraging the law abiding Jews to break the law? If you were this poor Jew, you might be quite confused. Taking up that stinking smelly bag of that rude, uncouth, mean and hateful Roman soldier is not something you would even want to consider except that you have no choice but to comply for fear of the consequences. But now, the Lord commanded that His Jewish disciples not only walk one mile but two. How do you feel if you were this Jewish disciple? Would you complain? Would you argue your case? Would you use the Old Testament Scriptures and plea to be excused?

The Roman law was already unreasonable and unjust in the first place and now the Lord load it on and give you double. This is a Roman law the
conquerors imposed upon the conquered. Is the Lord siding with your enemies? In fact, the Lord was telling His disciples to love their enemies. Moses told the Jews of old to wipe out their enemies and here the disciples were told the exact opposite. Has the Jewish Messiah gone mad? How can this Jewish Messiah deliver them from bondage and from their enemies like Moses in the past? Surely they had been following the wrong man. This man Jesus could be an infiltrator and a Roman sympathizer. You might be forced to conclude that the Lord was on the side of your enemies if you were a Jew during that time.

Does it really make sense to carry the burden of this enemy soldier who is occupying your homeland? It was already unbearable to have enemies within your gates, now you were told to even do more for them when they compelled you to take their burden and walk for two miles instead of one. Do you really wish to be nice to your enemies who occupy your homeland? Do you really like the idea? Whatever happened to the promises to the fathers of ancient time? Would you obey the Lord if you were this Jewish disciple during those days?
Supposed, it was not a Sabbath day but you were on the way to work and this soldier came along and forced you to carry his burden for a mile. You have a busy schedule and many obligations to fulfill for the day. You have to make a living and put bread on the table for your family. You may have an appointment to meet an important client. But now you were confronted by this unreasonable Roman soldier. Would you happily comply and walk a mile with him carrying his dirty backpack on you? It could stain your clothes and ruin your important appointment with your clients later. Do you really have a choice?

You might be busy going to work carrying your own burden when this soldier compelled you to carry his burden. What if you cannot carry your own burden plus this soldier’s burden? You have no choice but to leave your own burden on the ground and carry this soldier’s burden to walk a mile with him. Do not forget, this soldier is a military man trained to fight and he must be a tough guy. His burden is not going to be light by any measure. You might not be as physically fit as this soldier. Now he loads his burden on you so that he can walk free without this weight. You might probably be struggling with the weight of his burden and stumbling along while he walks ahead of you. He might be abusing you and taunting you to walk faster. How do you feel being abused and humiliated by this cruel soldier occupying your homeland?

When you have finally completed the one-mile walk, do you expect this soldier to thank you? Of course fat hope and slim chance this soldier would be grateful to you for what you have done for him. This is no doubt a thankless job. No one would volunteer for such unpaid and abusive work especially for enemies abusing their powers in your own homeland. This is surely not some kind of community work to help the poor and needy and the underprivileged that you would be glad to help out. You will never teach your children to be so helpful in such undertakings. Given a chance you would drive out all these Roman soldiers from your soil.

Only when you have done your duty, you would have to walk a mile back to retrieve your own burden left on the ground. Imagine the amount of walking back and forth and the agony involved, especially under the searing hot sun! Do you think it is fun? You think this is some kind of workout in a gym that is good for your health and help you lose unwanted calories? What happen when you have gone back to where you left your burden and it was missing or stolen? How would you react? Was that your concern when you
were walking with that wicked soldier’s burden for the first mile walk? Was your own burden constantly on your mind hoping and praying that it would still be there when you went back to retrieve it later? Now that it is missing and you are facing the reality of such unwanted risk that you cannot mitigate. What are you going to do? I suppose you would curse every generation of that soldier who forced you to walk a mile with him. You might be crying out openly and loudly on the injustice you received at the hand of this Roman soldier. Will anyone take pity on you? Will anyone help you to recover your loss for that day? Will you be compensated for such loss and file a claim against the Roman government? What else can you do other than to accept this as your fate for that miserable day? Where is the God of Israel who delivered His people of old?

To say that this law is unreasonable and unjust would be an understatement not to mention the inconvenience it caused to those who have to comply with this law. Now our Lord came along and told the Jewish disciples to walk not one mile but two miles. Does that make sense to you? Does the Lord even consider the feelings of His people having to bear such a cruel cross? And yet the Lord said that His yoke is easy and His burden is light. How funny! Very funny indeed! What cruel irony is this? What a cruel joke for those who are less well built to carry extra weight on them!

Try carrying a 20kg backpack and walk a mile on a hot summer day and it is anything but funny. To walk two miles would be truly unwarranted. Have you heard about heatstroke? You could go into a coma if you get a heatstroke when your brain gets fried. Does the Lord know that some people might not be able to carry the heavy burden of those rugged battle hardened soldiers? Well, then it is time the people of God claim that I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. If the Lord’s commandment does not make sense to you, then it is time to exercise faith in God. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Carrying an enemy soldier’s burden for an extra mile would be considered light comparing with some of those incredible things and acts the Lord told His prophets to do in the past. Are you ready to appropriate faith and obey the Lord’s commandment on this matter?
Suppose you are now this joyous disciple of Christ. When this rude and uncouth soldier came along and threw his backpack on the ground and ordered you to pick it up and walk a mile. Then you joyfully pick up that burden and maybe even throwing down your own burden and walk with him. Maybe you did not speak to this soldier when you walk. The proud soldier might not even want to look at you let alone talk with you. He is the master and you are the slave.

Perhaps you might be humming a hymn as you walk. You soon forgot about the heavy weight that was bearing on your sore shoulder. Your feet might be getting blistered and you feel a bit of cramp on your calf muscles. Every joint on your tired body is aching by now. You might be feeling a bit faint and you walk on trusting the Lord. So you walk on joyfully and soon you have walked one mile and fulfilled your obligation.

As expected, this soldier expected you to throw his backpack on the ground and storm off in anger. Perhaps, he expected you to curse him in your heart or out of his earshot after you had left. Maybe he expected you to show him a dirty look or make funny faces at him. As this soldier expected you to throw down his burden and he was on a lookout for the next victim to carry his burden for another mile, you did not stop walking.

You are still carrying his backpack and continue to walk and walk ahead of him now. This soldier would very likely tell you to stop as you have already fulfilled your obligation. So this soldier starts talking to you and he tells you that you may go now. But you insist on walking another mile with his burden on you and with him.

Can you imagine his astonishment? This soldier knew he was abusing his power and the law was on his side and he could do you harm if you refuse to obey him. But now, not only you did not complain, you even wanted to walk another mile with him. Is not this amazing? This soldier might think that you must be out of your mind to do this. Maybe the heatstroke is getting into you. This time, this surprised soldier would be talking to you. He would inquire why you would want to do such foolish things. He might ask you what you find in him that you like so much to walk with him carrying his backpack for another mile. Do you really enjoy to be abused? Are you really so foolish? And you joyfully volunteer to become a fool for Christ.
Why would you want to become such a fool for Christ? You might have left your own burden a mile back and you still have to go back to retrieve it later. To walk a mile back is bad enough and now you have to walk two miles back to get your own burden and carry that weight of your own burden and start walking again after this unjust walk with the soldier. Is it because you are a disciple of Christ and you have nothing else better to do and you are always on a lookout volunteering to be abused?

Your employer could be waiting for you and you could be late for work. You could lose your job for being late. Your wife and children could be waiting for you to come home for dinner and you would be late. Your wife might get angry if you are late for your wedding anniversary dinner. There will be a thousand and one things for excuses with regards to self-denial when you want to obey the Lord by faith in the first place. Do you expect others to be understanding, like your employer, your wife and children because you have to attend unto the Lord first? Most unlikely! You will be chided for being so foolish instead. So for what purpose is this commandment? Will there be any gain for you on your part for obeying this commandment? What will the Lord get out of this when you obey Him by faith? Is it going to benefit the abuser in any way when you obey the Lord?
Let us consider the position of this soldier for a moment. He has the law on his side when he compelled you to walk a mile with his burden. In a way, he knew his is abusive and he does not expect you to be happy about it. In fact he would expect you to hate him instead. He has no intention to be your friend and he does not expect you to be friendly towards him as well. But when you so joyfully carry his burden for a mile and volunteer for another mile, you must have something that he does not have. He must be missing out on something!

Either you are crazy or you are more superior than he. Does his pride allow you to be more superior than he? So when you walk this second mile with him, he would be inclined to talk to you and ask you why you are doing this. Do you really like this soldier so much to carry his backpack for an extra mile or do you have some other ulterior motives? What do you want out of this? His inquisitive mind will not let him rest till he gets an answer from you on your foolishness.

Here is an opportunity for you to tell him about your Saviour. The first mile you walk as a slave to the Roman Empire. The second mile you walk as a servant of the Most High God on earth. When this soldier asks you why you are walking the second mile, you have the opportunity to tell him that the Lord Jesus Christ tells you to do so. Then the soldier would inquire about this man Jesus and why he is so kind to this unworthy unkind soldier like him. You can now tell him the Lord is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil according to Luke 6:35.

So you have the chance to preach Christ and Christ crucified to him. You can now tell him what great things the Lord has done for you. You can tell him who is this Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. You can tell him how your life has been changed since you met your Saviour. You can tell him what the Lord Jesus Christ has promised you and how the things in this world do not really matter anymore. Do not you think this is a wonderful deal? Here is a wonderful opportunity the Lord creates for you to witness for Him. Now when that this soldier owes you one favour, he feels obligated to listen to you. Do not you think this is a wonderful opportunity for you to tell this soldier about Christ as you walk another mile with him? When the animosity between you and this enemy soldier is removed during this voluntary second mile walk, a conversation is now possible. Will not you take pity on this soldier and tell him about Christ?
When this soldier gets saved and when he and you stand before the Lord in glory, he is no longer your enemy occupying your homeland. He is no longer your master commanding you to walk with him. You are no longer his slave as well. He has become a beloved brother in Christ and in fact joint heirs with Christ to inherit the eternal world of blessing and peace to come. The enmity between him and you is forever gone. It has crossed the realms of human politics and national boundaries. Would not it be nice to convert your enemies to become your friends and brothers in Christ?

Is it worth the trouble to carry his burden and walk another mile? You have a captive audience when you walk the second mile with him. If he does not want to talk to you, at least, he will take note of you and when you have completed your second mile walk, just tell him that Jesus loves him. That would be sufficient. He would be thinking about this name Jesus and sometime in the future there will be a confrontation between him and the Lord Jesus Christ. You may simply give him the name of Jesus for neither is there salvation in any other name under heaven whereby sinners might be saved (Acts 4:12)

Is not the Lord good to us who are willing to obey Him? Do not you think the Lord will bless you and recompense you many folds if you obey Him by faith no matter how unreasonable or how inconvenient it might seem to you if you bear the burden of some unworthy sinners in this world? The second mile walk is not designed to punish believers in Christ. There will be rewards for those who choose to consciously obey the Lord to walk the second mile for His name’s sake.

We must however, take note that this unjust law was applied to all during the Roman Empire. If you do not like it, you could consider immigration and perhaps travel east and live in China during the Hans dynasty and enjoy walking the Great Walls of China instead of walking the unjust mile with the Roman soldier. You can soak in all those splendid scenery instead of suffering abuse by your enemies. If you do not have this option of voting with your feet, then you have no choice but to comply. While complying with this unreasonable and unjust law, here is still this avenue to glorify your Saviour by walking the second mile.
Let us transport ourselves back in our time and see how we may obey this commandment. In our days, no man will come up to you to compel you to carry his burden and walk a mile with him unless he is sick in the head. Now back in our days and in particular in our own context, there maybe some laws or rules and regulations that you do not like. For example, doing national service for male citizens. If you are a male citizen here, unless you are medically unfit, you have to spend more than two years of your life to perform national service. It does not matter whether you are a Christian or not. It does not matter whether you are rich or poor. If you are a male citizen you are required to serve. That does not mean when you are called to serve two years and you volunteer to serve four years to match the second mile principle because you are a Christian.

Let me discuss this issue on the secular level through the eyes of the flesh for a moment. Performing national service is not something glamorous that it is made up to be through the media or movies. It demands a lot of personal sacrifices. Once you are in uniform, you lose your freedom. A team of combat engineers has recently been sent to Afghanistan. Safety is a real issue for you if you have been sent there to help in the reconstruction work. There is a real possibility to be kidnapped for ransom or beheaded by the enemies. In our present context, national servicemen are deployed to guard the airport and refineries and other important and sensitive installations. You are only paid a couple of hundred dollars a month to do all this. Those old security guards working in shopping malls and schools will be earning more than you. Some call national service national slavery, which is not far from the truth.

You not only suffer inconvenience and loss of personal freedom and time, you could lose your health as well. During my time, a schoolmate was killed during training. One of my brothers suffered a severe bout of outbreak of rashes and he was downgraded and excused from wearing uniform. You may ask why are we doing all this? They will tell you to sing this song during training.

Training to be soldiers to fight for our land,
Once in our life, two years of our time.
If you ever wondered why we must serve,
Because we love our land and want it to be free.
Really? Well, wonderful patriotic sentiments over such singing during national service. Do you get priority in university placing and in the job market? Unlikely. Instead foreigners are often given priority in the University and in the job market.

If I were an employer, I would probably employ foreigners over the locals. They are cheaper to hire and they do not have to disappear a few weeks every year do perform national service. It is going to inconvenience me for my business operation when you have national service obligation. So what are you going to do? Well, immigration is one option if you do not like to remain here and if you have the means. I am not suggesting Christians immigrate if they have the means. This is just the reality of the situation here.

Now let us consider our position as Christians in the biblical perspective. Our lives are in the hands of the Lord. Whatever circumstances our Lord allows us to be in, we are to glorify the Lord in all our circumstances. For Christian young men enlisting into the armed forces, they will have a lot of opportunity to walk the second mile in their army life living as Christians among sinners. There will be those who claimed to be Christians but they are the most selfish people whom you will come across. Even unbelievers mock these professing Christians and blaspheme Christ’s name because of their poor testimonies. I was one of those mockers during my days in the armed forces.

But there will be those who live godly lives in the midst of this perverse generation. They do not mind doing extra work though how unreasonable it may seem. They would try to bear burdens for others who are weak. Ever tried carrying someone else riddle to run when this soldier is struggling under all those weight. If I being an unsaved man could, you as a Christian better do better than what I am doing to help a fellowman if you want to preach Christ to me. You will have no basis to tell me about your Saviour if you are not more superior than I.

There are also wonderful Christians everywhere living out a naturally spiritual life to glorify Christ. They are not self-righteous people who cannot get along with sinners in this world. They are those who hold to their stand and will not compromise their testimonies for Christ by getting involved in ungodly and questionable activities. They will not join in the filthy jokes of
the unsaved but they will join in readily on any conversation with unbelievers and be of help and blessing when necessary.

Now, it does not mean walking the second mile is only applicable to Christian national servicemen. It is also applicable to students dealing with unsaved classmates and teachers. Do you expect sinners to believe in the Lord when Christians are unhelpful and are only interested in saving his own skin? It is also applicable to Christians in all walks of life everywhere dealing with sinners in this world. Sinners in this world watch Christians very closely. When you are a Christian, they will observe you to see whether your faith is genuine. If you cannot even suffer some loss of time for sinners in this world, how do you expect them to believe in the Risen Saviour who is kind to the unthankful and evil? Walking the second mile for Christ is very demanding. It demands time and effort on the part of the Christian. It requires personal loss to walk the second mile to show sinners that the Lord loves them.

The question is this. Are you willing to suffer some personal loss or inconvenience so that others could see Christ in you? Are you willing to live that exceptional life that is completely different from the people in this world who will complain and bellyache when things do not go their way? Will you act like the people in this world and join them to rebel against whatever perceived injustices in this world?

We serve a God who sits in judgment. Whenever there is any aberration of justice in any way in any land, God will raise up people to correct those injustice. As Christians, that is not our business and our calling. We should never get so upset and become entangled with politics of the nation or in our school or place of employment. Daniel served his political masters with distinction whether it was under the Babylonian Empire or the Mede-Persian Empire.
The people in this world have a very warped way of fulfilling this second mile obligation. They under promise what they will do for their clients and customers and then over provide their services to them. In the eyes of the customers and clients, they would have walked the second mile and have performed well beyond their call of duty. This is what they call managing customer expectation. This is not what the second mile walk is all about. What loss and inconvenience have they suffered as a result? None! They have already factored in what they will do for their clients and customers in the first place. The reason why they wish to appear to be walking the second mile in their business dealing is to get more repeat business from their clients and customers. They wish to develop customer loyalty for their excellent customer service through this second mile concept. Walking the second mile is not for the purpose of exceeding customer service standards to keep customers and make them happy.

For Christians, our second mile obligation is completely different from the practice of the people in this world. They do it for their own personal gain while we do it to glorify our Saviour. We have to set aside all our nationalistic pride and prejudices if we want to walk this second mile for Christ. It is impossible for those proud Jewish disciples to walk the second mile for their Roman occupiers if they hold on to their nationalism and pride of their nation. The arrival of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Creator of the universe into this world has changed the entire political setting in this world. He is not only the God of the Jews but the God of the Gentiles as well. Walking the second mile for Christ is a walk that crosses national boundaries. It has transient all politics on earth for the Lord is calling out a peculiar people from all nations in this world to be a people of God. **But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (1 Peter 2:9)**

We must know that we have no abiding country here on earth. The saints in ancient time knew this as well. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. (Hebrews 13:14 & 11:6) Those saints of old desired a better country to come. Like the saints of old, we need to desire a better country. If we have this vision of a better country, one that is heavenly to come, walking the second mile for the Lord would not be too difficult after all.
So let us travel light and be prepared to leave for our heavenly home at a moment’s notice. When we walk the second mile, we become master of our own circumstance and destiny. We are no longer slaved to any political master when we walk the second mile. Far from being compelled to walk an unjust mile, we walk our Master and Saviour’s second mile. When we choose to walk the second mile willingly for our Master and Saviour Jesus Christ, we show who really is our Master, Lord and Friend. Hence it is time to walk the walk of faith for our Lord and Saviour. The child of God is not being penalized for walking the second mile by faith.

Walking the second mile for Christians is an attitude and a way of life for us who are willing to suffer loss for Christ. Do we always succeed in walking the second mile? I do not think so. But we ought to try though. And try we must so that when we get use to walking our talk, it will become natural and second nature to us when we walk the second mile for Christ. It would be very sad when Christians are self-centered and major in only self-preservation. We will not amount to anything for the Lord. We will not be willing to move an inch with our feet for our neighbours let alone walk a mile for our enemies. If a Christian is willing to walk the second mile by faith for the Lord Jesus Christ, he will have no problem helping a stranger let alone a brother or a sister in need. He is going to be a selfless man instead of a selfish man. Nevertheless, the ultimate objective in walking our walk is to glorify Christ so that others may come to know our Saviour.

For the Lord told His disciples and us: Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16) This verse enshrines the very spirit of walking the second mile for Christ. The very essence of walking the second mile for Christ is to glorify God when we let our light shines even in the most unjust and unfair circumstances in this life. May the Lord help us Christians to walk this second mile for the glory of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.