

dec 8

familiar friday - the second mile

"and enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him." gen 5:24

i have been reading the book "the joshua code," by o.s. hawkins. i highly recommend it. they are very short chapters. read and meditate on them at your convenience.

i want to quote a few excerpts from one chapter. it have moved me deeply and i hope it will you also.

by law, a roman citizen or soldier could compel a subject from one of the conquered lands to carry his backpack, or load, for him for one mile, but only one mile. ... the first mile is required of us. the first mile is always the hardest. ... likewise, often the most difficult part of the christian life is getting started on the first mile. this is true with almost everything in life, with exercise programs, dieting, and scores of other disciplines. even scripture memorization!

THERE IS A MIRACLE MILE MOTIVATED BY LOVE

it is this miracle mile that separates certain individuals from others. the second mile is only made possible by being obedient to the first mile. the second mile has a way of brightening our own road.

someone who journeys on the miracle mile also has a way of lightening the load of those around them, one cannot travel the second mile without influencing others. it only takes one second miler on a team or in the office to do the same. this miracle mile, the second mile, is motivated by the love of Christ.

incidentally, the second mile is the mile our Lord Himself walked. He knows the road very well. it was love that took Him on the miracle mile to the cross. oh, He journeyed the first mile. He stepped out of heaven and into human flesh. He walked the mandated mile that was motivated by the law. He kept very detail of the law. but He also went the second mile, motivated by His love for us. He who made the stars with a spoken word and formed the universe, the One who formed and fashioned us with His own hands, said, "I love you, and I will walk with you." but we went our own way.

then He said, "I will go the second mile." it took Him to the cross where He bore the weight, not of a Roman soldier's backpack, but our own sin. and somebody told somebody, and somebody else told somebody else, and somebody else told ...

somebody else who told me. and now i'm telling you. i'm telling you about a love that can never be experienced by human flesh. it takes a rebirth of our spirit to even begin to explore it's expanse. you think the universe is vast? it doesn't begin to

measure up to the love the creator has for us. i can never explain why? i can only tell you it's so.

some of you have not even begun that first mile yet (and are already perhaps dreading it). what will be required of me? what will i have to give us? let me assure you, He will carry YOUR load on that first mile. it's just one of the "perks" of walking with royalty.

should you venture to go that second mile, the miracle mile - only having known Jesus intimately for the first mile could persuade you to walk the second also. one just refuses to leave Him. like the disciples we cry, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" john 14:5 yes, He knows the road well. it may well lead to ridicule and persecution - even death.

"that i may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death." phil 3:10 this is knowing "the fellowship of His sufferings."

how little of that road, my soul!
how little hast thou gone!
take heart, and let the love of God
allure you further on

no, the second mile is not for everyone to travel. one would think it would be required to get to the final destination. but no, He has traveled it for you. some are content to wait until He arrives while others seek to know the way with Him. walking the road with Him allows one to know Him in a personal and intimate way.

they fellowship not just in His love but His sufferings as well. they want to learn the way so, perchance, they may give directions to others seeking to follow also.

i have spoken all this in allegories with the hope of driving home to each of you the "immeasurable" grace, mercy and love our heavenly Father has for us. it is all manifested in Jesus!

i would encourage you all to travel that second mile. even though the first mile is paved with joys and delights, the second mile will lead you deep into the forest where few have traveled before - and yes, you must walk it alone. God is in that forest as He loves to hide Himself - but not near as much as He loves being found! maranatha - our Lord cometh!