

**Living above the Level of Mediocrity** - Mat 5:38-42

Jesus is challenging us to live above the minimum.  
**We are settling for less than the best! Col 3:23-24**

**Foundational 5:** Lk 17:7-10 *1st Mile*

**HERE IS HOW! Live the Foundational 5**

**Read** Rom 10:17, Josh 1:8, Deut 6:6

**Pray** 1 Thes 5:17; **JER 29:11-14 is a Promise of Victory**

**Church** God meets with His people in a specific place.

Gen 13:4; Gen 22:2-4,9,14

**Tithe** 1 Cor 16:2; 10% of Gross! 2 Cor 9:6-8 Mal 3:8-11

**Witness** Acts 1:8 *YE SHALL BE WITNESSES*

**Replace an undisciplined life with one of structure.**

**Replace you old influences with new ones:**

**1st mile is at the Threat of a lash**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> is for Jesus!

**God has a greater desire for us than the first Mile!**

(Jer 29:11) *For I know the **THOUGHTS** that I think toward you, saith the LORD, **THOUGHTS** of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

**Mat 5:41 2<sup>nd</sup> mile**

Reader - Meditator Josh 1:8; Ps 1

Pray-er - Pause and Prompt (Jer 33:3) 1Jn5:14-15  
Ask for Big things.

Church Attender - God get's His Glory (Eph 3:21)  
- Come to Give of my self (Heb 10:24-25)

Tither - Grace Giving (2 Cor 8:1-7)

Witnesser - Lost have no hope Jn 3:17-18;36

**Responding Properly to Tests, Trials, and Suffering:**

*Embracing what God has allowed to come into your life!*

**You will have tribulation! Jn 16:33** *Ye shall have ...*

**Trials Come:** We get Serious, **Jn 16:33**

**We all get serious in the Trials**

**Christ left us an example to follow:** 1 Pet 2:21  
2nd mile is to live consistently like we are in a trial.

**God uses these to grow our faith:** 1 Pet 4:12-13

*Illus:* *You can't learn to sail on calm seas!*

*2nd Mile: Our Faith should be growing.  
b/c our trials get bigger.*

**God uses these to mold us into the Image of His**

**Son:** Rom 8:28-29 It is a tool of the Lord to shape us

2nd Mile: Embrace and Be thankful  
(1 Thes 5:18) (2 Cor 12:7-10)

*Illus:* *Like dumbbells to work out with!*

*Illus:* *Does God always have to use trials to re-align us?*

**Don't Focus on the Trial!**

**Focus on the God who aloud it!** *Illus:* *The Triangle Diagram. God at the Top, us and the Trial.*

**To Live in the 1st Mile is t live below the level of Mediocrity God intended**

***The Eagle and the Chicken Farmer***

*My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions are few, my guide is reliable, my mission is clear.*

*I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed.*

*I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.*

*I won't give up, shut up, let up, slow up till I've preached up, prayed up, paid up, stored up, and stayed up for Christ.*

Robert Moorehead