

April Week #3 Devotionals & Consideration



UNCHARTED TERRITORY

Hymn: “Take My Life and Let it Be”

Take my heart, my mind, my will, Let them be Thy servants still.

Matthew 6:11

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven.

Catherine Thomas has a prolife exhibit that she takes to different events and rallies. When someone invites her to their event, just by talking to them, she can tell if it is someone that thinks it would be a good idea or someone that will make it happen. If someone is going to “make it happen” they ask questions like how many tables do you need, how can I best assist you? They are willing to do whatever it takes.

Now we have to question ourselves when we pray, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done.” Do we pray it like it is a good idea or do we pray it like someone who is going to make it happen? Are we ready to ask the questions: How we can assist? Are we ready to go into action? Are we willing to help make it happen? What are we willing to sacrifice?

In a sermon, B.J. Schultz gave the following testimony.

Several years ago I was traveling through Mexico City with my wife. It was nearing dusk and we were on our way to our hotel. We met a woman in a wheelchair attempting to cross a busy intersection. She was having difficulty doing so and we offered to help her. We walked with her for a time and as the final rays of daylight ebbed away, I asked her which way she needed to go to return to her home.

Fear began to set in. The city was not safe after dark and my thoughts turned from her needs to mine. This was not a safe endeavor for us; we needed to turn back and get to our hotel—such were my thoughts. She pointed in a direction opposite the one we needed to follow and we parted ways.

I had been willing to travel the first mile with her, to help her as long as

my own welfare was not in jeopardy; however, the second mile was too risky.

Some may say I made a wise decision in favor of my family's safety. Maybe so.

Nevertheless, we did not arrive at the heart of Zion that night. We had done that which is commendable in the eyes of men, but perfection remained one mile away down a road we were unwilling to travel.

Also from B.J.'s sermon:

John 12:26 If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant be; if any man serve Me, him will My Father honor.

Roman law required a Jew to carry the burden of a Roman soldier one mile. Jesus asks two of all who follow him:

3 Nephi 5:87 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

One mile fulfills our obligation to others. Two miles fulfills our obligation to God.

If you want to know how far it is to Zion, it is two miles. The first mile is where good people are. It is where we do good things that are convenient for us.

In order to get to Zion, we must go that second mile. The second mile is where we get to show God's love more than ever.

The first mile is convenient, safe and comfortable.

The second mile takes work and not seeking or desiring attention for our good works. The second mile may be scary, uncomfortable. We may have to sacrifice things we never thought we could.

Again, we have to be ready to go where ever God directs us. This is possibly uncharted territory for us.

Are we willing to sacrifice by getting out of our comfort zone? Are we willing to sacrifice our sins? Are we willing to sacrifice with our time, talents and tithes?

Finally, do you want to be someone that thinks the kingdom is a good idea or someone who wants to make it happen?

Are you ready to ask God, "What do I need to do to make the kingdom happen?"

It is one thing to ask the question, but don't ask the question unless you're ready for the answer ... and then go the extra mile!