



And Then Some

Leadership Behavior: Leaders Make It Better

As Kingdom leaders we are compelled to give our best, and then some.

“And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles” (Matthew 5:41, ESV).

“Go the extra mile” is a common phrase we use in business or leadership. The roots of this expression can be traced back to ancient Israel and the times of Jesus. The Romans had conquered the known world and built a system of highways that connected Rome to every one of their territories. It was true, “all roads lead to Rome.”

Every road had a stone marker placed at each mile. The stone noted the direction and distance to the nearest town as well as back to Rome. By law, a soldier could compel a subject from one of the conquered lands to carry a load, for one mile, but one mile only.

This is the thought behind the point Jesus is making in the Sermon on the Mount, “Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.” Imagine the impact of these words on the ears of those who found themselves under Rome’s heavy hand. I don’t imagine there were many “amens”.

Jesus was calling on His disciples to do more than what was asked of them. Do the minimum requirement and then some.

Why? **Because success is found in the second mile!**

Make this very present and make it personal.

In marriage...fulfilling your vows is mile one. Christ compels us to go the extra mile!

In parenting... providing the benefits of home and health is mile one. Go the extra mile!

In Christian life...obedience to the Lord is mile one. His disciples go the extra mile!

In employment...40/hrs a week, 9-5 is mile one. Go the extra mile!

In ministry...a well prepared message, teaching, worship set is mile one. Go the extra mile!

Success is found in the second mile. What does that extra mile look like for you? Where could 5% or 10% more in a key area make the difference?

At Grace, we have a privileged call and blessed opportunity within the ministry. Let us not forget that for all its wonderful blessings, we are also engaged in an eternal conflict where the stakes are life or death, heaven or hell. What we do matters and it requires embracing the AND THEN SOME principle

This is the charge of Paul to his spiritual son Timothy who is overseeing one of Paul's church plants.

“Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 2:2–3, NIV).

Paul uses the parallel of military service to communicate the urgency and importance of his assignment. This was more than a career it was a call. This made me wonder—what does “and then some” look like for an elite military soldier.

The US Army Rangers are a lethal, agile and flexible force, capable of conducting many complex, joint special operations missions. Take a look at their creed.

Recognizing that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high esprit de corps of the Rangers.

Acknowledging the fact that a Ranger is a more elite Soldier who arrives at the cutting edge of battle by land, sea, or air, I accept the fact that as a Ranger my country expects me to move further, faster and fight harder than any other Soldier.

Never shall I fail my comrades. I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong and morally straight and I will shoulder more than my share of the task whatever it may be, one-hundred-percent and then some.

Gallantly will I show the world that I am a specially selected and well-trained Soldier. My courtesy to superior officers, neatness of dress and care of equipment shall set the example for others to follow.

Energetically will I meet the enemies of my country. I shall defeat them on the field of battle for I am better trained and will fight with all my might. Surrender is not a Ranger word. I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy and under no circumstances will I ever embarrass my country.

Readily will I display the intestinal fortitude required to fight on to the Ranger objective and complete the mission though I be the lone survivor.

Rangers lead the way!

Keep this in mind when you read Paul's words to Timothy, “This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare” (1 Timothy 1:18, ESV).

Why go the extra mile and give “and then some”?

1. “And Then Some” is where your efforts multiply

The extra mile makes the difference.

I am reminded of the words of a master carpenter who took the time to fit and finish the hidden parts of his work. He was asked “why waste the time and energy on the pieces that no one will ever see?”.

His response was, "I saw it and I know."

His mastery ultimately meant his pieces found top dollar and lasted longer than inferior products. Later his adopted son who learned that same principle put it to work in a company he founded called Apple. Steve Jobs credited those lessons to being key to Apple's design and the company's success.

The extra mile makes the difference.

"But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6:6 ESV).

2. "And then some" is where life find fullness

When you give the important and meaningful things and people in your life the extra mile you find deeper and more meaningful connection.

For instance a successful marriage is an "and then some" marriages. There is no 50-50, there is giving 100% with no expectations in return. When both partners come together this way, it doesn't just work, it thrives.

3. "And then some" becomes spiritual worship

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:23-24).

4. "And then some" creates eternal impact

We won't win the world with minimum effort. Extraordinary results require extraordinary effort. No small average thinking here. We have the tools, the team, the talent to win multitudes to Jesus.

5. "And then some" offers greater influence

Think of the people you listen to. Think of the stories and leaders that have inspired you and influenced you. Everyone has something in common. They are an "and then some" leader.

We celebrate and emulate the ones who go the extra mile. Likewise we forget the people who just did what was required. Legacy and influence is built in the extra. Determine to be a person of influence.

Success is found in the second mile!

Questions:

- 1) List three of your top responsibilities (In our language, these are your MVPs). What is the overall goal of each of these? What would going the extra mile look like in each of these areas? How much of a multiplying effect could that extra effort bring?
- 2) Where is a current place of frustration? Perhaps this is an area you don't see the results you are looking for. Think of where adding more effort in the right area could turn things around.
- 3) Think of the key relationships around you. How could the "and then some" principle help foster deeper more meaningful connections?