

“THE LONGEST MILE”

ON MAY 6 1954, ON A TRACK IN OXFORD, ENGLAND, ROGER BANNISTER BECAME THE FIRST PERSON TO RUN A MILE IN UNDER 4 MINUTES.

IT WAS 3 MIN 59.4 SEC.

AND MORE REMARKABLE - HE WAS RUNNING, IN A 15 MPH CROSSWIND GUSTING TO 25 MPH.

JOHN LANDY, ONE OF THE GREAT MILERS OF THAT ERA, NEVER HAD GOTTEN CLOSER THAN WITHIN 1.5 SECONDS OF THE 4-MINUTE BARRIER. WITHIN 46 DAYS OF BANNISTER'S BREAKTHROUGH, LANDY SURPASSED THE RECORD WITH A 3:57.9 IN FINLAND. BANNISTER AND LANDY RACED A MONTH LATER IN THE "MILE OF THE CENTURY." WHO WAS THE FASTER MILER? BANNISTER WON IN 3:58.8. THE FIRST TIME TWO MEN IN ONE RACE HAD BROKEN 4 MINUTES. BY THE END OF 1957, 16 RUNNERS HAD BROKEN THE 4-MINUTE MILE.

BANNISTER MUST HAVE TRAINED EXTREMELY HARD
1 MILE IN LESS THAN 4 MINUTES - TOUGH!

ALL READ – MATTHEW 5:-31 48

GOD'S WORD DEMANDS TOUGHNESS;

JESUS POINTED OUT HOW WE ARE TO LIVE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

** * * MT 5:41 IF SOMEONE FORCES YOU TO GO ONE MILE, GO WITH HIM TWO MILES. [TOUGH] ROGER BANNISTER RAN THE FASTEST MILE OF HIS DAY. CHRISTIANS ARE NOT ASKED TO RUN THE FASTEST. BUT YOU MIGHT SAY JESUS TELLS US TO RUN THE LONGEST, OR FARTHEST. "IF SOMEONE FORCES YOU TO GO ONE MILE, GO WITH HIM TWO MILES"*

NLT READS, "IF A SOLDIER DEMANDS THAT YOU CARRY HIS GEAR FOR A MILE, [LIKE A SOLDIER FORCED SIMON OF CYRENE] YOU CARRY IT 2 MILES. NLT COMMENTARY; "TO MANY JEWS, JESUS' STATEMENTS WERE OFFENSIVE. ANY MESSIAH WHO WOULD TURN THE OTHER CHEEK WAS NOT THE MILITARY LEADER THEY WANTED TO LEAD A REVOLT AGAINST ROME. SINCE THEY WERE UNDER ROMAN OPPRESSION, THEY WANTED RETALIATION ON THE ROMANS WHOM THEY HATED. BUT JESUS SUGGESTED A NEW, RADICAL RESPONSE TO INJUSTICE. INSTEAD OF DEMANDING RIGHTS, GIVE THEM UP FREELY. ACCORDING TO JESUS, IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO GIVE JUSTICE AND MERCY THAN TO RECEIVE IT." BY TELLING US NOT TO RETALIATE, JESUS KEEPS US FROM TAKING THE LAW INTO OUR OWN HANDS."

JESUS CONCLUDED, "AND BE PERFECT – AS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS PERFECT."

QUESTION, WHAT IS IT TO GO THE SECOND MILE? IT MEANS GOING ON BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY. MORE THAN THE BARE MINIMUM.

MT 18:21 PETER CAME TO JESUS AND ASKED, "LORD, HOW MANY TIMES SHALL I FORGIVE MY BROTHER WHEN HE SINS AGAINST ME? UP TO SEVEN TIMES?"

MT 18:22 JESUS ANSWERED, "I TELL YOU, NOT SEVEN TIMES, BUT SEVENTY-SEVEN TIMES. [SECOND MILE]
ALSO, THE SECOND MILE IS A MATTER OF LOVE AND WILLINGNESS TO SERVE AS CHRIST SERVED.
JESUS WENT THE SECOND MILE FOR US. - - - THE EARLY CHURCH WENT THE SECOND MILE.

GOING THE SECOND MILE MEANS, PUTTING ALL YOUR HEART, SOUL, MIND, AND STRENGTH INTO IT. BE GENEROUS – BE GRACIOUS – BE EXTRAVAGANT FOR CHRIST – SERVE FREELY – DON'T BE RESERVED – IF YOU'RE GOING TO SERVE OTHERS FOR CHRIST – GO ALL OUT. MARY TOOK A YEAR'S WAGE OF PERFUME AND POURED IT ALL ON JESUS. SOMETIMES WE GET SO SELF-CENTERED.

GOING THE SECOND MILE WILL WORK IN OUR HOMES.
GOING THE SECOND MILE IN SERVING IN SERVING CHRIST IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY.

A NEW CHURCH BUILDING MEANS SOME SECOND MILES.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

IT MEANS HAVING A WILLING HEART AND WILLING TO DO A LITTLE MORE THAN YOU ARE ASKED.

IN NEHEMIAH WE READ, *NE 4:6 SO WE REBUILT THE WALL TILL ALL OF IT REACHED HALF ITS HEIGHT, FOR THE PEOPLE WORKED WITH ALL THEIR HEART.*

HOW IS YOUR HEART? IT TAKES A HEALTHY HEART – A PERFECT HEART - A SANCTIFIED WHOLLY HEART.