

**November 15 / Sunday**

**Love Your Neighbor: Extra-mile Living**

Read [Matthew 5:14-16, 41-45](#) / [Ecclesiastes 11:1-2](#) (NIV & CEV)



**16 / Mon – Extra mile...why?** | Read [Matthew 5:41-45](#) / [Matthew 5:16](#)

When a Roman soldier forced a Jewish civilian to carry his gear, it was humiliating. Anger would be anyone's natural reaction. Jesus suggested another option: *offer to go another mile*. An unexpected action like this may have surprising effects. For yourself, it could neutralize the temptation to feel like a victim and become bitter. Another is how it could impact your enemy. The next time you are faced with opposition, would you be willing to do the unexpected thing God asks of you?

**17 / Tue – Extra-mile living @ cultural enemies** | Read [Luke 10:33-35](#)

Bitterness between Jews and Samaritans started 700+ years before Jesus. Unlike hatred toward foreign invaders, this enmity was between those born into Jewish families and those who were only half Jewish (called Samaritans). Jews believed Samaritans had abandoned true worship, and were not following God's law acceptably. Disdain and contempt grew into hatred on both sides. Does this give added significance to the Samaritan's choices in this story Jesus told?

**18 / Wed – Extra-mile living @ work** | Read [Genesis 39:1-6, 20-23](#) / [Genesis 41:39-43](#)

Ever had a job you hated and found yourself slacking off on your responsibilities? Then you might relate to Joseph's story. He could have adopted a slave mentality and done the minimum as others did, but it appears he worked hard to make those he served prosper. Was it an extra-mile mentality that set him apart...the reason he was repeatedly given greater responsibility and leadership? How might this apply to a similar situation in your life, either now or in the future?

**19 / Thu – Extra-mile living @ home** | Read [Luke 15:11-32](#)

Loving the people in your family can be a great challenge, especially when they irritate or offend or cut you off. As you read this story, see how the younger son hurt his family (v. 12-16) and what he thought he deserved when he came home in disgrace (v. 17-19). *Note: apparently his older brother agreed* (v. 28-30). Think about what the father would have been justified in saying. Then read closely what he actually said and did in v. 20-24. Which family member went the extra mile? And why?

**20 / Fri – Extra-mile living @ your neighbors** | Read [Luke 11:5-8](#) / [Luke 6:30-36](#)

Generosity is a hallmark of anyone who realizes how greatly God has blessed them. The first set of verses can serve as an example of how *not* to act toward your neighbor. The second set of verses show Jesus' more radical view. When you see a neighbor in need, you have three choices: pretend you don't notice because it might inconvenience you; acknowledge it and do the bare minimum; or do all you can to help. How might your choice change/reinforce your neighbor's opinion of God?

**21 / Sat – Extra-mile living @ fellow believers** | Read [1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#)

You may not have the greatest family ties but God has adopted you into His family. Just like in your family of origin, there are opportunities to go the extra mile with your brothers and sisters in Christ. As pastor/author Craig Groeschel writes... "we tend to judge others by their *actions* while judging ourselves by our *intentions*." How could this reminder help you to be more careful when there are disagreements or misunderstandings between you and other Christians?