



4050 80th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Fl

Volume 11 Number 18

April 25, 2010

SKYVIEW BULLETIN

GOING BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY



The heading of this article is actually an expression that is used to describe a person who is not satisfied with meeting the basic, minimal requirements. It is often used of those, who on the job, do more than is required. Or it is sometimes used of people who, after fulfilling their obligations, do just a little more. They go one more step when it is not necessary.

Another way of expressing this thought is seen in the expression, "Going the extra mile." This actually comes from the Bible and is found in Jesus' mountain discourse in Matthew 5. "If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles" (Matthew 5:41).

Jesus continued this teaching in the following verses. "If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?" (Matthew 5:46-48).

The challenging question Jesus asked, is "What are you doing more than others?" This is a good question for each of us to ask ourselves. Are we doing only what we believe is required of us? Or do we go the extra mile? Do we go beyond the call of duty when it comes to our service to God or are we trying to get by with just the minimum that we hope will satisfy God? What are we actually doing that would qualify as "more than others are doing?"

God's requirements under the Law of Moses shows that God is not satisfied with just any service. Consider for example, the animal sacrifices He demanded. They could not offer to God just any animal, they had to offer Him the very best. They could not bring an animal that was lame, sick or already dead. They had to bring the very best of their flock, and sacrifice to God. They could not offer anything to God and then say, "I've done what God commanded."

This principle is illustrated in the very beginning of God's revelation to man in the Book of Genesis. Cain and Abel brought God an offering. "..... but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor" (Genesis 4:5) Exactly why God was not satisfied with Cain's offering is not perfectly clear. But there was something wrong, either with the sacrifice, or with the attitude of Cain as he made his offering to God. Did Cain try to just get by with the minimum requirements, while Abel went beyond and offered the very best he had? The text seems to suggest this. "Able brought of the firstborn of his flock, and of their fat" (Genesis 4:4). He did not just offer an animal, it was the firstborn of the flock, and he did not just offer the animal, he offered the fat as well. He gave to God what was considered the most valuable of possessions. The firstborn and the fat thereof. (back page)

**Do we go
beyond
the call of
duty when it
comes to
our service to
God?**

ELDERS

**Ron Bastien
Don Greenlee
Charles Murray
David Roberts**

DEACONS

**Ron Bentz
Frank Edwards
Jim Ingram
George Loyd
Andy Murray
Dennis Trask
Brad VanHaerents**

PREACHER

Charles Murray

MEN WE SUPPORT

**William Stewart--Kingston, Canada
Bob Owen — Trip to Europe
Mike Mendez —trip to Cuba**

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY

**Worship.....9:30 A.M.
Classes.....10:50 A.M.
Worship.....6:00 P.M.**

WORSHIP PLACE

**4050 80th Ave N
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Pinellas Park, Fla. 33780**

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We need to apply this “extra mile” principle to our service to God today. Are we trying to get by with the basic, minimal requirements, or do we go above and beyond the call of duty? Some say, “Well, I at least make it to the worship services.” Fine! But what “else” do you do? Or a person might say, “I live a good moral life—I’m good to my family—I treat my neighbors with kindness.” Wonderful, we should do all of these things. But what else do you do?

Many Christians believe they have fulfilled all God wants them to do when they attend the Sunday morning worship service. They know we are commanded to observe the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week, so if they attend that one service every week, they feel they have done all that God requires. Some may attend three services a week, but if there are special services, such as a Gospel Meeting or extra opportunities to worship and serve, they don’t feel the need to attend or participate. “I have done all God requires of me,” they convince themselves.



Adult

Auditorium

New class

beginning in

January:

The Life Of Christ

GOD’S

PLAN OF SALVATION

Believe—Heb. 11:6

Repent—Luke 13:3

Confess—Rom. 10:9

Be Baptized—

Mk.16:16, Acts 2:38,

1 Pet. 3:21

There are many ways we can go above and beyond the call of duty as we serve our brethren

Not only do some have the “just do enough to get by” attitude when it comes to worship opportunities, they have that attitude when it comes to our serving the Lord. “Oh, I invited my neighbor to attend services with me one time, and they did not come. I’ve done what I should do—I invited someone.” “I prayed about my fellow Christian who is sick or has some physical need—I’ve done my duty. Now someone else can care for them or serve them in some way.” “I know my brother or sister in the Lord is having some financial difficulties and I prayed about it. I sure hope someone helps them—but I’ve done my duty—I prayed.”

If we think this way, we may be guilty of not doing all we should do. James in his epistle talks about this as he stresses the need to prove our faith by our actions. He said, “*If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you say to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?*” (James 2:15,16). James

points out there is no profit in this scenario.

There are many ways we can go above and beyond the call of duty as we serve our brethren. They may be small things. Mowing the yard for a shut-in. Taking food to a family where there is sickness or sorrow. Little things sometimes become big things.

Jesus again taught this principle when he told about the master, servant relationship. He told about a servant who obeyed the orders of his master. After a servant worked in the field all day a master could tell that servant to prepare his meal and take care of all his needs and then the servant could eat. Jesus wanted to know that if after the servant had done everything he had been commanded to do, would the master thank the servant? He then said this: “*So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘we are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty’*” (Luke 17:10).

When we have only done our duty—nothing more—have we really pleased God? If we do not go the extra mile; if we do not go beyond the call of duty, are we really pleasing to God? Are we trying to get by with the minimum requirements? Are we trying to “just get by”?

What about those who are not even doing all they are commanded to do? If a servant is unworthy when they do everything they are commanded to do, what is their condition when they don’t do even that? This is something we all should think about seriously and soberly.

It may be good for us to think about what we are offering to God. Are we giving Him our very best, or the minimum? We need to apply this to our time, our physical possessions and our energy. Are we really sacrificing to God, or are we giving Him the scraps—what is left over—after we have spent everything for ourselves?

May we be challenged by Jesus’ question to the people of His day: “*What are you doing more than others?*” We may not be doing what they are doing. Are we unprofitable, unworthy servants, or will God have respect for our sacrifice?