

"And Then Some"

"He went a little farther..." (Matt. 26:39)

A successful businessman was once asked the secret of his success. His reply summed up success in three words: "and then some." He learned early in life that the difference between average people and the truly successful could be summed up in those three words. Top people did what was expected and then some!

Jesus taught the and then some principle. In the Sermon on the Mount he said:

"And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two" (Matt. 5:41).

"And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?" (Matt. 5:47).

Jesus is saying, go beyond what is expected! Go a little farther!

Unfortunately, many have accepted the idea of just getting by! The student who is satisfied with a "C" grade could be making an "A". There is the employee who is concerned with getting just enough hours punched to get a paycheck. This is what Jay Lockhart calls, "the malady of the minimum!"

To be average is to be just as near the bottom as the top! It is the best of the worst and the worst of the best!! Why seek to be average in anything? Seek to excel! Go higher! Grow! Why be an average Christian? Why be an average church?

Let these words: "and then some" serve as a tonic for our spirit!

- ▶ Attend services faithfully — and then some!
- ▶ Give generously — and then some!
- ▶ Greet those near you — and then some!
- ▶ Meet your obligations — and then some!
- ▶ Be dependable — and then some!
- ▶ Be a good friend — and then some!

It will make a difference in the world, your life, and in the church.

- Clarence DeLoach, Jr.

An Old English Prayer

Give us, Lord, a bit o' sun,
A bit o' work and a bit o' fun,
Give us in all the struggle and sputter,
Our daily bread and bit o' butter,
Give us health our keep to make
And a bit to spare for other's sake.

Give us, too, a bit o' song,
And a tale and a book to help us along,
Give us, Lord, a chance to be
Our goodly best, brave, wise, and free,
Till all men learn to live as brothers.

- Author Unknown -

Your religion is the life you live, not the words you profess.

News & Notes

CONFESSION: Lori States.

SYMPATHY: To James McGaffick at the recent passing of his grandmother, Marjorie McGaffick. God bless and comfort him at this time.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies to help make bears for children.

LADIES WORK DAY: Next Saturday, Dec. 13th, 9:00 a.m. at the Multipurpose Building to prepare baskets for the elderly and shut-ins.

PANTRY: Spaghetti & sauce.

REMEMBER WITH PRAYERS & CARDS: *City Hospital (Skilled):* Ella Beagle. *At Home:* Ilene Rayl, Carl Miller, Harry Nice, Marilyn Sprout, Randy Beagle, Michelle Hanlon, Bobby Sheville, Bette Gentry Gene Miller, Beulah Rice, Mary Jane Bowers, Blondenia Orr, Virginia Rickerd, Bertha Seman, Pauline Clutter, Will Montgomery, Dan Williams. Don't forget to encourage others confined to their homes and in nursing homes. They are listed on the bulletin board.

SEVEN ATTACKS ON OUR FAITHFULNESS

1. **Persecution** — Matthew 24:9-10. It is hard to keep getting up just to be knocked down again. Jesus told the church at Smyrna, "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer," and then he said, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10). I suspect that Paul would say that the persecution which really saps our strength is not that which comes from without, but from that which comes from our own brethren.

2. **Temptation** — Luke 8:13; Hebrews 3:13. In interpreting the meaning of the seed which fell on the rocky ground, Jesus said, "these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away."

3. **Worldliness** — 2 Timothy 4:10. As Demas forsook Paul, having loved this present world, so will our zeal for the Lord be diminished if we love this world.

4. **A moral lapse** — 2 Samuel 12; Psalm 32. When we feel unclean or when our conscience is bothering us, it is hard to get excited about serving the Lord.

5. **Forsaking worship and spiritual living** — Hebrews 10:25-31. When we miss worship, we must be careful that a slow progressive callousness is not setting in. Many who would not defiantly blaspheme and repudiate their faith find themselves slowly doing just that.

6. **Not seeing the light at the end of the tunnel** — Job

7. **Thinking you are the only one** — 1 Corinthians 2:3.

- Mel Martin, Lincoln & Tunnell Church of Christ, Santa Maria, CA - - via *Bulletin Gold*