

Set Free Devotional #8
by
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Tuesday, March 24 (Luke 9:3) “He told them: “Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt.”

Jesus was sending out His disciples two by two. They were to declare the kingdom of God and to heal the sick in Jesus’ name. But the instructions were peculiar. God and don’t take anything. You will not need a walking stick, a backpack, food, money or even a change of clothes. Now this was not a day trip Jesus was sending them on but rather an extended mission tour of the surrounding area.

How were they going to travel, eat, have clothes, all the thing that were going to be necessary to accomplish their mission? How was God going to supply? Were the needed things to fall from the sky when needed?

In my first pastorate we were poor. I was eager to prove myself and was working hard for the congregation and trying to help them grow in God’s grace and numbers. Visitation was important and I was doing a lot of getting around and seeing parishioners and prospects. One evening I had stopped at a phone booth to call in for messages and looked back at my car. To my horror I saw a huge hole in the tread of a front tire. I hung up, asked God to please just get me home and drove back knowing all the while there was no money for a tire. “How do you visit if you can’t go?” I asked God while sweating a blowout.

The next day I worked in the study, went nowhere, and could locate not one extra dollar in our house or in our bank. Then I went to the mailbox and got the mail. When I came back in I discovered a letter from a church in another state. They said they believed in our ministry and God had told them to send this check. There was a check from their blackbird fund (think Elisha) and while it was a pleasant surprise it was not enough for new tires.

I cashed the check the next day and went to a discount tire store. I could get two four ply tires for the amount of money I had so I thanked God and made the business transaction. While I watched the tires being put on the car I saw the owner stop the workers and they all put the tires down and sat down while the owner started toward me. “Now what is wrong?” I wondered, knowing this was going too smoothly. The owner approached and said, “You know what? I’ve got a set of radial tires in the back I have not been able to sell and they would fit your car. Would it be alright if I put those four new tires on for the same amount of money?”

All right? I left with four brand new radials that lasted the life of the car and a humble spirit before the Lord God Almighty who never fails to supply for those who call upon Him and follow His guidance.

OK. So the disciples were supplied and without need while on their mission. How? God not only owns the cattle on a thousand hills but the hearts and purses of those who are His true children. God met their needs through others giving.

Maybe it's your turn to be the one God uses to supply for someone else.

Suggested Prayer:

“Our Father, thank you for the miracles you work in our world today. Could we have the honor and privilege of being used by you to supply a needed miracle today? All is yours and to be used for your glory! Amen”