

Luke 9:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.

Analysis

Take nothing for your journey (μηδὲν αἴρετε)—Jesus commands radical dependence on God's provision. The prohibition is comprehensive: **neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats**. The Greek construction with repeated *mēde* (nor) emphasizes absolute trust in divine provision rather than human preparation.

This mission training deliberately stripped the Twelve of self-sufficiency. Unlike Matthew 10:10 which allows a staff, Luke's account (like Mark 6:8) is stricter—no staff, no traveler's bag (*pēra*), no provisions, no money, not even a spare tunic. The message: God's servants must trust His provision through those who receive His Word. This anticipates Luke 22:35-36, where Jesus later permits provisions, showing the temporary nature of this training exercise in radical faith.

Historical Context

In first-century Palestine, travelers typically carried a staff for protection, a leather bag for provisions, bread, money (copper coins), and an extra tunic. Jewish custom permitted travelers to carry these essentials. Jesus's prohibition would have seemed shocking—sending His disciples out deliberately vulnerable and dependent on hospitality.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What 'provisions' do you rely on instead of trusting God's moment-by-moment provision?
2. How does Jesus's later permission to carry provisions (Luke 22:35-36) inform our understanding of faith versus presumption?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτούς Μηδὲν αἴρετε εἰς τὴν ὁδόν
And he said unto them nothing Take for your journey
G2532 G2036 G4314 G846 G3367 G142 G1519 G3588 G3598

μήτε ὁάβδους, μήτε πήραν μήτε ἄρτον μήτε ἀργύριον
neither staves neither scrip neither bread neither money
G3383 G4464 G3383 G4082 G3383 G740 G3383 G694

μήτε ἀνὰ δύο χιτῶνας ἔχειν
neither apiece two coats have
G3383 G303 G1417 G5509 G2192

Additional Cross-References

Luke 22:35 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.

Psalms 37:3 (Parallel theme): Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

2 Timothy 2:4 (Parallel theme): No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

Luke 3:11 (Parallel theme): He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

Luke 12:22 (Parallel theme): And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.

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