

# Matthew 10:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,

## Analysis

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Jesus commands radical simplicity: 'Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses' (μη κτησησθε χρυσον μηδε αργυρον μηδε χαλκον εις τας ζωνας υμων). The prohibition covers all currency—gold (most valuable), silver (moderate), brass/copper (least valuable). 'Purses' (ζωνας, belts) were money belts worn around the waist. Jesus forbids financial preparation, creating complete dependence on God's provision through others' hospitality. This isn't universal poverty mandate but mission-specific instruction creating radical dependence. The principle: kingdom workers deserve support (10:10), and dependence demonstrates faith while creating opportunity for believers to participate through hospitality. Traveling light enables mobility and urgency—don't let possessions slow kingdom proclamation.

## Historical Context

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Itinerant teachers and philosophers typically carried provisions and accepted payment for teaching. Cynic philosophers practiced voluntary poverty as philosophical statement. Jesus' instructions create different model: not self-sufficient poverty but dependent faith. Workers would rely on Jewish hospitality customs, which obligated hosts to provide for travelers. This created mutual blessing: workers brought gospel, hosts provided material support. Early church continued this pattern (3 John 5-8). Paul occasionally supported himself through tentmaking but affirmed workers' right to support (1 Corinthians 9:3-14).

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What does Jesus' command to travel without money teach about faith and dependence on God?
2. How do we apply these mission-specific instructions to contemporary Christian service?
3. What is the relationship between kingdom workers' dependence and believers' responsibility to support them?

## Interlinear Text

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Μὴ κτήσησθε χρυσὸν μηδὲ ἀργυρον μηδὲ χαλκὸν εἰς  
neither Provide gold nor silver nor brass in  
G3361 G2932 G5557 G3366 G696 G3366 G5475 G1519

τὰς ζώνας ὑμῶν  
purses your  
G3588 G2223 G5216

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.