

Matthew 10:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Jesus commands radical simplicity: 'Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses' (μη κτησησθε χρυσου μηδε αργυρου μηδε χαλκου 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

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

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

Μὴ	κτήσησθε	χρυσὸν	μηδὲ	ἄργυρον	μηδὲ	χαλκὸν	εἰς
neither	Provide	gold	nor	silver	nor	brass	in
G3361	G2932	G5557	G3366	G696	G3366	G5475	G1519
τὰς	ζώνας	ὑμῶν					
G3588	purses	your					
	G2223	G5216					

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.