

## WEEK 12

### 23. When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything? Luke 22:35-37 (NKJV)

#### Money-Bag, Backpack, and Sword

<sup>35</sup> He also said to them, **“When I sent you out without money-bag, traveling bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?”** “Not a thing,” they said. <sup>36</sup> Then He said to them, **“But now, whoever has a money-bag should take it, and also a traveling bag. And whoever doesn’t have a sword should sell his robe and buy one.”** <sup>37</sup> For I tell you, what is written must be fulfilled in Me: **And He was counted among the outlaws.** Yes, what is written about Me is coming to its fulfillment.” <sup>38</sup> “Lord,” they said, “look, here are two swords.” **“Enough of that!”** He told them.

Luke 22:35-38 (HCSB)

“Then Jesus said, **“When I sent you out and told you to travel light, to take only the bare necessities, did you get along all right?”** “Certainly,” they said, “we got along just fine.” He said, **“This is different. Get ready for trouble. Look to what you’ll need: there are difficult times ahead. Pawn your coat and get a sword. What was written in Scripture, ‘He was lumped in with the criminals,’ get its final meaning in me. Everything written about me is now coming to a conclusion.”** They said, “Look, Master, two swords!” But he said, **“Enough of that; no more sword talk!”**

Luke 22:35-38 (The Message)

#### *Reflections:*

My wife and I moved from West Virginia to Nashville, TN after the first year of our marriage. We were excited about the move and eager to explore new things. However, after two difficult years, we decided it was time for a change and moved to Georgia. For six months, we lived with a family in the church that we were serving. After that time, we moved into a rental home which meant we were paying for two house payments because our house in Nashville had not sold. This went on for a year. I was working part-time at the church and had another full-time job. Delores was having some health issues. We were trying to follow God’s direction, but at times we felt like we had been sent into the wilderness with nothing.

I’m sure the disciples did plenty of grumbling about their merger existence. Yet, they were traveling with Jesus, the Savior of the world...the King of Kings...the son of God. Did they really have any legitimate complaints? They’re provisions were being met and they weren’t going hungry. They even admitted it to Jesus.

I don’t know about you, but I tend to get the most anxious when things are shaky financially. I mentioned that we were struggling financially during those years, but God always seems to provide. During one of the tightest months, we really didn’t know where the money was going to come from for the rent. A few days later, we got a check (\$500) in the mail from a lady from West Virginia that was a member of our former church. She said in the letter, that God had impressed upon her heart to send the money. Now, how that’s for “provision.” So how about a little less “sword talk” and a little more “faith walk.”

#### *Questions to Ponder:*

- a. Why, in times of crisis, do we get anxious about God’s provision?
- b. Can you think of times in your life when God truly met your needs?
- c. If money, food, and shoes are not required of Jesus, then what are the “bare” essentials?

#### *Prayer*

Lord, help us to lay aside our preoccupation with “things” and “stuff” and lay our lives at Your feet.  
Amen