

## A MISSION IN LIFE 6: NIMBLE ACTION

*“Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.” (Luke 10:3-4, NIV)*

HERE IN CALIFORNIA, FROM WHERE I WRITE, we’re not often worried about weather when we play golf. If it’s going to be one of those days, we stay inside. This is probably true of golfers everywhere—it’s just that their definition of bad weather differs!

But what I mean is that a Sunday bag can be carried pretty much every day where the weather is predictable. You know Sunday bags. They’re only six inches across at the mouth, and not much bigger at the bottom. You can probably stuff all 14 of your clubs into one, but they’re designed for lighter travel. I don’t know if it’s only lore, but the Sunday bag was meant to be this way, for it was first carried by club players on Sundays, when the caddies were given the Sabbath away from their usual work. If you wanted to play, you had to schlep your own sticks.

Schlepping is no one’s favorite. When I travel these days, I notice that wheeled suitcases outnumber unwheeled ones perhaps twenty to one.

In recent weeks, we have been talking about ways to share the story of Christ’s life planted in you when salvation came knocking on your door. Today we take up an idea that has two applications.

Traveling light, as the expression goes, makes perfect sense for the tourist, especially when venturing far afield. Who needs to move the unnecessary weight? But it makes sense relationally as well. When I don’t go with everything I need—just as Jesus sent out his disciples to minister and to preach—I become dependent on the assistance of those where I am going. And in asking for their help, I forge a connection with them that can lead to friendship and conversation. Humility builds bridges, and not being fully provisioned makes me humble.

But here is a second consideration: I don’t need lots of theological weight either. We all know the unhappy experience of being “dumped on” in a conversation. When I travel theologically light, I get to what matters sooner: the core of the gospel, that Jesus died for our sins and rose for our eternal salvation.

What do you need when reaching out to others? Take only that. Trust God for the rest.

**Opening questions** What makes your golf bag heavier than it should be? How often do you clean it out, lightening the load? • What kinds of baggage do religious people carry around with them?

**READING** Luke 10:1-12; Philippians 4:12

### Travel and work (Luke 10)

What did Jesus tell the disciples to take with them? How did he expect them to get what they needed?

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What work were they commissioned to do? What might help or hinder their work?

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How are earthly work and kingdom work (serving God) similar? How are they different? What balance would you say you strike in your life between earthly work and kingdom work?

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### Contentment (Philippians 4)

What do you think the “secret” to Paul’s contentment was? How would contentment enable us to work more nimbly?

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