

Stay Light

Luke 9:1-4

Lisa Pierce

While overseas on the deployment, we were given one mission and all our attention focused upon that mission task. One aspect of a deployment is minimizing and eliminating distractions. Distractions literally cause us to lose traction and not get the footing we need. I wore a uniform everyday and did not concern myself with what to wear. Multiple dining facilities allowed me easy access to meals eliminating preparation and clean up and a way to quickly eat. Plus, no grocery shopping! Gyms and fitness centers were in easy walking distance. Indeed, the military works to eliminate distractions when on mission.

Our passage of scripture paints a similar picture where Jesus tells the 35 pairs of disciples to pack light, radically light. Imagine the picture: no staff, no purse, no food, no money, and just the shirt on your back. Talk about focus and simplicity! Jesus really was painting a picture of reliance upon him. (As a side note, Middle Eastern culture is extremely hospitable outdoing each other in hosting travelers and guests). Still, it seems extreme and certainly a significant move of faith as the early disciples proclaimed Jesus, brought good news, and healed while carrying very little provisions.

Lenten Season is a time to remember how to eliminate distractions, not just now, but throughout our journey with Jesus. We do have a mission and its pretty simple-make disciples. However, we seem so distracted. Wouldn't it be great if we arrived at church fully ready to worship? Wouldn't it be awesome if the subject of our conversations were on whom we were discipling and the joys and challenges of discipling? Instead, we seem distracted and weighted down. We seem more concerned about whose doing what on social media, who has a new Bronco, travel ball schedules, Auburn Sports, and it goes on and on. The Church in Western Society is losing its relevance and its influence. Maybe we have forgotten our first love and our mission because we are so distracted and weighted down. My prayer is we use this season to ask the deep questions of what is keeping me from discipling others, from deepening my own walk, from serving others, and sharing Jesus' message to others. And then act.

Prayer: Dear Jesus. I love you. I desire so much to serve you. I am weighted down with unnecessary things and feel distracted. Please help me simplify and refocus my trust in you, to stay light. The harvest is plenty, but your laborers are few. I am ready, please send me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Bible Project Reading Plan

The Bible in a Year

Sunday, March 19 - Saturday, March 25

Sunday, March 19

Judges 4-5

Psalm 71

Monday, March 20

Judges 6-8

Psalm 72

Tuesday, March 21

Judges 9-12

Psalm 73

Wednesday, March 22

Judges 13-15

Psalm 74

Thursday, March 23

Judges 16-18

Psalm 75

Friday, March 24

Judges 19-21

Psalm 76

Saturday, March 25

Ruth 1-4

Psalm 77



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