

JOURNEY

“He said to them, ‘Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic.’” (Luke 9:3, NRSV)

“He said, ‘Don’t load yourselves up with equipment. Keep it simple; *you* are the equipment.’” (Luke 9:3, Message)

Taking a trip usually involves packing. Some people love to pack, while others simply dread it. Some are very methodical when they pack, while others just throw things in a suitcase at the last minute. I personally do not look forward to packing. I often drive myself crazy when it’s time to pack because I try to think of everything I might possibly need for every possible scenario. What will the weather be like? What sorts of activities will I be doing? Will I be in a formal or an informal setting? In other words, I tend to over plan. Then I try to pack as little as possible. I don’t like to drag around large amounts of luggage.

Lent is an annual journey. It is a journey that begins on Ash Wednesday and takes us all the way to the cross. It is a reflective journey. It is also a journey for which we do not need to pack much. In fact, we already have everything we need. There is no need to pack anything for this trip. We do not have to think of all the scenarios we might encounter on this journey. We have ourselves and God.

When we take a trip, we take luggage along so that will be prepared. Imagine what it would be like if you went on a week’s vacation and you somehow forgot your luggage, or your luggage was lost along the way (maybe you *know* what this is like). Not only would you be frustrated, but you would feel unprepared. You might even feel vulnerable, and we do not like feeling vulnerable. Yet I also wonder if the lack of luggage might even be freeing.

Our Lenten journey can be a time when we allow ourselves to be vulnerable with God, as difficult as that may be for us. To not pack any luggage on this journey requires trust. But if we allow ourselves to leave the luggage behind and devote our full attention to God we will grow, and we might even find new freedom. So leave the luggage behind, and let God lead you on your journey.

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