

**Sharing Life: Expect the Unexpected**  
**Mark 6:6-13 (Sending out of the twelve)**  
**5<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

Is anyone going on holiday soon? Where?

What are you going to pack to go on the journey? Suggestions.

Show picture of people getting on a train – man with baggage; he’s got so much baggage that he might not be able to get on the train.

Jesus spent a lot of time with 12 of his friends, telling them about God’s love for them and for all the world, and showing them how to get this good news through to other people too. And then one day he sent them out to have a go for themselves. A sort of try-out, on the job training. When he sent his friends off, I suppose they would have prepared for the journey like we do – taking all the things they’d need.

These are the sort of things I take with me.

- Bag - to hold all the things you need:
- food and drink in case there’s a delay and you get hungry
- money in case you want to buy things
- clothes
- sun tan/hat cream to protect you from the sun
- book, because I like to have something to read

But Jesus said to his friends. No, you don’t need all that, you don’t need extra equipment for the journey I want you to make and the job I want you to do. You are the equipment, I’ve given you everything you need already.

- no bag, that will only hold you back and weigh you down – you don’t need anything but Jesus, who walks beside you
- no food and drink, because God will feed you with the only thing you need to give you strength for the journey, that’s the presence of Jesus inside you by his body and blood received from this table, or one like it

- no money, because when you need something, if you ask God for something to help you do his work, he will give it to you
- no clothes, because you have been claimed as God's own people and wear Jesus as the only clothes you need (Gal 3:14) - that will be your protection

To read, bible - word of God - will give us all we need to do his work

We weigh ourselves down with so much in our lives - things that seem so important at the time, that we have to have - good jobs, the right schools for our children, the right car, summer holidays to the right places so that the neighbours will think we're successful, but all these things get in the way of what God wants to do for us. He tries to show us that we don't need all of that - and, more importantly, that although those things might be in our lives, that's not what counts, that's not what will bring us fulfilment and real happiness. Only God in Jesus can bring us real happiness and real life. The rest is just baggage.

You don't need to weigh yourself down with all these things that actually get in the way of what Jesus wants you to do for him.

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