

Church in Regina

Material Offering—Week 2

The Character of the Lord's Worker—Towards Money

What should be the **attitude of a Christian worker**, a servant of God, towards money?...Let us now consider **how the Lord Jesus trained His disciples**... In sending forth the twelve, the Lord said, "Take nothing for the journey, neither a staff nor a bag nor bread nor money, nor have two tunics apiece" (9:3). The Lord told them to **leave behind many things**. When He commissioned the seventy, He said, "Do not carry a purse, nor a bag, nor sandals" (10:4). A common point in both cases is money. In other words, **money should be a non-issue** for a worker who sets out for his work. Later the Lord asked, "When I sent you without purse and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you? And they said, Nothing" (22:35). Following this the Lord said, "But now, let him who has a purse take it, likewise also a bag; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one" (v. 36). This is because the dispensation had changed. By that time the Lord Jesus had been rejected. While there was a chance for the Israelites to receive the Lord, there was no need for these things. The point to emphasize is that in carrying out his commission for the Lord, **a worker should not pay attention to his wallet**. His whole being should be given to the message, not to his wallet. We go out to testify that Jesus of Nazareth is God's appointed Lord. Our being is in the message, not in the purse.

What do the words *do not carry* mean? They tell us that **the gospel principle contradicts the principle of the purse and the two tunics**. When a man sets out to preach the gospel, he cannot set his mind on these things. For an ordinary journey, one needs a purse to hold his money, a staff for walking, and two tunics to change his clothes. All these things are necessary. This is the reason the Lord told His disciples to carry them in Luke 22. Why did He say that these are unnecessary when He sent out the twelve disciples in chapter nine and the seventy in chapter ten? He forbade these things because a gospel preacher should not set his mind on these things. **When he is sent, he should go**. He should go if there are two tunics, and he should go if there is only one tunic. He should go with or without a staff, with or without money, and with or without a purse to carry his money. This is what it means to be a gospel preacher. This is the basic training the Lord gave the disciples when He sent out the twelve and then the seventy for their work. Brothers and sisters, we have to be clear. If a man's heart is on the gospel, these minor things will not be an issue to him at all. If these things become an issue to him, it is better that he not go out at all. In order to preach the gospel, our clothing, our purse, and our staff must not be a concern to us. If they are, we cannot preach the gospel. The gospel requires that we focus absolutely on the gospel; it requires so much of our attention that these things should become inconsequential to us. **The gospel is the only thing that should occupy our hearts. When we set out for our work, we should be happy with or without the availability of hospitality**. We have to stand on God's side, and we should bear a glorious testimony for the Lord...

We can find out more about the Lord's training of His disciples in the feeding of the five thousand and then the four thousand. On one of these occasions, He took His disciples with Him and preached to a large crowd of five thousand, not including women and children. Toward the close of the day the disciples came to Him and said, "This place is deserted and the hour is already late. Send the crowds away that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves. But Jesus said to them, They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat" (Matt. 14:15-16). The disciples had hoped that the Lord would send the crowds away to get their own food. But the Lord said, "You give them something to eat." When one disciple heard this, he was shocked, and said, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that each one may take a little" (John 6:7). While they were counting the two hundred denarii, the Lord said, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see" (Mark 6:38). When they brought Him five loaves and two fishes, the Lord performed a miracle and fed them all. Brothers and sisters, **all those who are counting their two hundred denarii are not qualified to work for the Lord. If money means so much to us, we cannot touch God's work**. The Lord shows us in these verses that **every worker should be glad to give away what he has**. If money means a great deal to us, we will **always calculate profit**. A worker should **be delivered from the power of mammon**. Money should not exert any power or influence upon a worker of the Lord. During the three and a half years the Lord was with the twelve disciples, He gave Himself to them. This was the way He trained the twelve disciples. He showed them that what should be spent should be spent. **God's work has nothing to do with profitability**. It is wrong to view God's work with a commercial eye. Those who are always counting their money are not God's slaves; they are mammon's slaves. We have to learn to rescue ourselves from the power of mammon (Excerpts from The Character of the Lord's Worker, CWWN, vol. 52).

Local Announcements:

1. Combined Prayer Mtg—Dec 24
2. Brothers' Meeting—Dec 22
3. Winter Training—Dec 24
(1st Message—Open Mtg)
5pm-6:30pm

Conferences and Trainings Information:

1. Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference—Feb.10-11, Taipei, Taiwan
2. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Apr.12-14, Anaheim, CA
3. Memorial Day Blending Conference—May 24-27, Bellevue, WA
4. Summer Training—July 1-6, Anaheim, CA
5. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Oct.4-6, Warsaw, Poland
6. Thanksgiving Blending Conference—Nov.28-Dec.1, Atlanta, GA
7. **Winter Training—Dec.23-28, Anaheim, CA**

Prayer Burdens

1. Lord, help us deal with mammon from Your point of view and to hand ourselves over to You. Open our eyes to see that we are stewards, not masters, and learn to live frugally.
2. Lord, we want to live according to Your principle of giving. In You we have no lack. Free us from accumulating what we have and seek first Your kingdom.
3. Teach us the principle of "give, and it will be given to you". You are the righteous God that supplies all our needs. Remind us that we are still under Your mercy.
4. Cause us to learn the basic lesson of financial stewardship. We only look to You for all our needs. Measure us accordingly that we would give again and again, sharing our surplus with others.
5. Lord, we cast ourselves upon Your word and live with the principle of giving. Supply our every need according to Your riches.
6. Have mercy on us that we would have a hidden life, a life free from making a show for ourselves and seeking glory before men. May the self and flesh be killed in our way of giving in secret.

North America/Europe/Other Burdens

1. Please pray for the migration of burdened saints to nine European cities in 2025—Paris, Geneva, Brussels, Belfast, Dublin, Vienna, Prague, Rome, and Athens.

Church in Regina

1. Pray for the propagation work in Saskatchewan. Strengthen the saints in Foam Lake, Yorkton and Stenen. Encourage them and supply them that there would be a lampstand in Yorkton for Your testimony. Remember Bro. Isaac, Bro. Charles, and Bro. William.
2. Pray for our contacts: Adam Chornenki, Iris and her daughter, and the Bible recipients: Christine, Ruby, Zahra and Jocelyne. Pray that they continually attend the small group/Bible study regularly.
3. Pray for the continuing of the Chinese-Speaking Bible Reading. Remember Bro. Nathan, Sis. Cassie and our new ones: Sis. Doris Di, Sis. Julie Cao, and Sis. Tina Huang.
4. Pray for Salvador Family who are planning to move from Toronto to Regina. Arrange their situation, remind them of their consecration, and make them pillars of the church wherever they go.
5. Pray for positive and immediate approval of all the immigration papers:
 - > Alforte Family (Radam and Rosalina) - PR Application
 - > Orolfo Family (Wilson and Jenny and their three children) - PR Application
 - > Jerome Family (Pravin and Abinaya and their two children) - PR Application

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

- Lord's Table & Prophesying—Lord's Day 10:00-12:00PM
- Prayer Meeting—Tuesdays 7:00-8:00PM
- Home Meeting—Wednesdays 6:00-7:00PM
- Chinese-Speaking Bible Reading—Wednesdays 8:00-9:00PM
- College Meetings—Fridays 7:30-8:30PM
- YP Meetings—Fridays 7:00-8:00 PM
- Children's Meeting—Saturdays 10:00-11:00AM
- Small Group Meetings—Fridays/Saturdays 7:00-9:00PM

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