



THE BARE NECESSITIES

a church in the World

ABSTRACT

When I was growing up there was a television show where a teacher found a super suit ...

August 3, 2025

Contents

SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY	2
WHAT ARE THE BARE NECESSITIES?	2
FOLLOWING JESUS FOR THE WEEK	3
THE DISCREPANCY	3
GOD WILL PROVIDE WHAT YOU NEED	4
<i>Abraham</i>	4
<i>Mary</i>	4
TAKE AWAYS	5

Scripture of the Day

Psalm 37:5 – 11

- ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.*
- ⁶ He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.*
- ⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!*
- ⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!
Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.*
- ⁹ For the evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.*
- ¹⁰ In just a little while, the wicked will be no more;
though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.*
- ¹¹ But the meek shall inherit the land
and delight themselves in abundant peace.*

What are the Bare Necessities?

*Look for the bare necessities
The simple bare necessities
Forget about your worries and your strife
I mean the bare necessities
That's why a bear can rest at ease
With just the bare necessities of life
With just the bare necessities of life
Yeah, man!*

--- From "The Jungle Book"

I watched many cartoons when I was young. Still watch a few now that I am much older. Sometimes there is wisdom in children's stories that is deeper than we realize at the time. This story revolves around an orphan named Mowgli who is raised by a bear named Baloo. Baloo sings the song to Mowgli showing him all that is around them in nature that will provide for them. So he can stop worrying, because the necessities of life will come to you.

As we follow Jesus we see that Jesus is sending his motley crew of merry men out to spread the gospel on a quick mission trip and it doesn't sound like He is giving them enough to do the job, but just like Baloo said, "The bare necessities of life will come to you, will come to you."

Let us Pray ...

Following Jesus for the Week

Matthew 10:9-10

⁹Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics^[a] or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food.

Luke 9:3

³And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics.

Mark 6:8-9

⁸He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts—⁹but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics.

The Discrepancy

If you look at all of these scriptures and if we believe they are discussing the same event we have a little bit of a challenge:

- Mark is saying you can take a staff and use sandals
- Matthew is saying don't acquire (or get) a staff or sandals
- Luke is saying don't take a staff

This is a situation where we can easily harmonize Mark and Matthew. Matthew is saying that Jesus is telling the apostles not to go out and get anything that they don't already have. They have all that they need. Mark is saying the same thing differently. However, Luke is saying something different. He is saying don't take a staff.

How do we reconcile this difference? This is where people who don't believe the Bible is true will point out a passage like this and say the Bible contradicts itself.

There are a few explanations for why there is this difference:

1. What my friend, Andy Webb, calls "think gaps." Everyone may be listening intently to Jesus, but all of us have times where we have gaps in our understanding while we are listening. We could be distracted for a moment. Or Jesus said something that brings back a memory of something from our past or something that we are looking forward to doing and we miss a word or two. That is all it takes for us to think we heard "take" where the person actually said "acquire." As we have talked before with detectives. They know that if the witnesses stories match exactly, there is something wrong.

There are going to be some slight differences in the details, but the overall story will be essentially the same.

2. The Greek word "airo" is used and it can mean "to take up", "to take away", "bear up",

“carry”, and “lift up.” The original Greek words used in these passages can have nuanced meanings. For instance, Matthew uses "acquire" which implies gaining new items, while Mark and Luke use "take," suggesting they should not carry extra items.

3. The instructions may not be contradictory if understood in context. The disciples were likely to wear their existing sandals and carry only what was necessary for the journey, not additional items.

God Will Provide What You Need

Whatever the explanation, the main point all of the writers make is that Jesus gave instructions not to trust in themselves but to trust in God to provide for their short journey. That they only needed to take with them the “bare necessities.” And whatever else is needed would come to them by their Father in heaven through other people.

Not seeing the end from the beginning is very difficult for us. And harder for some than others, myself included. But we see that throughout Scripture, God calls on people to believe in what He can do through them, even though there is no way what is being promised can happen through themselves:

Abraham

Genesis 11:31 – 12:

³¹ Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. ³² The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him

Mary

Luke 1:26 – 38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of

Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”^[e]

³⁵ And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[e] will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant^[e] of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Take Aways

Another title for this message could have been, “What We Have is Enough.” This is true because we need to remember that we serve a God who spoke the universe into being. It is such a small thing for Him to miraculously provide for you what you need to glorify Him.

So I want to leave you with a couple of scriptures to remind all of us that what we have will be enough:

Matthew 6:31 – 33

³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Philippians 4:19

¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.