

Logistical Support for Plan A, Luke 22:35a

B. Analysis of Luke 22:35

Luke 22:35 [NAS] - And Jesus said to the disciples, “When I sent you out without purse and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?” And they said, “No, nothing.”

In our analysis we will exegete the verbs, the first being the aorist active indicative of: *apostello* - “to send away,” or “to send out.” Refers to sending out an ambassador before the arrival of a sovereign for the purpose of communicating an official message or policy. Not only does this word imply that the ambassador has been commissioned to deliver a message but that both the sender and the one sent are united in agreement on its content.

Further, those sent are not only a representative of the one who sent them but they also possess plenipotentiary power delegated to them by the sender. Remember, plenipotentiary means that an official representative of a sovereign has full power to execute the policy of the sovereign.

aorist: Constativ; contemplates the action of sending out in its entirety and gathers it into a single whole. The Lord is reminding the disciples of a previous mandate and certain policies and procedures associated with that mandate.

active: Jesus Christ produced the action by sending the disciples out.

indicative: Declarative; this is a statement of fact for what actually occurred in past time.

Next the Lord reminds the disciples of the policies under which they functioned when they first joined Him. He instructed them to travel without money, luggage, or shoes. The review begins with the preposition of separation: *ater* - “without.”

Then comes a list of those things they were instructed to travel without. First is a: *ballantion ballantion* - “purse.”

Second, a: *pera* - “a scrip” And third: *hupodema* - “shoes.”

Even though none of these were taken along, the Lord asks them if they were ever in any need of anything. Their response was one word: *oudeis* - “Nothing!”

Shoes is a readily understandable translation but what about “purse” and “scrip”; what are these? In order to understand this policy statement by the Lord, we must focus for a moment on logistics.

Summary of Logistics

Logistics is a military word which refers to the military science of supply, provision, and planning of troop movement.

Logistics is a technical term for sustaining troops in the field before, during, and after the battle.

Logistical grace may be defined as divine support, divine provision, and divine blessing for the execution of the plan of God in any dispensation.

David expressed his complete understanding of divine logistics in his 23rd Psalm: Psalm 23:1

The Lord is the One shepherding me; therefore, I cannot lack for anything.

Psalm 23:2 - He causes me to lie down in green pastures of choice food; he leads me to waters of refreshment.

Psalm 23:3 - He restores my soul; He guides me in wheel-tracks of righteousness because of His integrity.

Psalm 23:4 - When I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I cannot fear evil because You are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 23:5 - You have prepared before me a table in the presence of my enemies; you have anointed my head with oil. My cup overflows.

Psalm 23:6 - Only good and grace shall pursue me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

David's first job was that of a shepherd.

Jesus Christ describes Himself in John 10:11 as the "good Shepherd."

The shepherd's job is to care for his sheep. He is the one who leads them to "*pastures of choice food and to waters of refreshment.*" He has the responsibility for his sheep's life support.

The shepherd protects the sheep from the dangers of going astray. He restores the soul through rebound, he guides them into righteous wheel-tracks by his rod and staff. This is the principle of goads and discipline.

In the presence of a hostile environment, the believer who follows Christ is provided with all his necessities, pictured as a table, finely set and bountiful with food.

Being anointed with oil refers to the ancient custom associated with promotion. The believer who represents Christ is granted plenipotentiary power to do His will.

The overflowing cup pictures the blessings which come to the believer who places his complete trust in Christ by executing His plan.

As a result of our faithfulness to the Shepherd, the Shepherd promises that good and grace will pursue us all our lives. In the Church Age this refers to escrow blessings.

In the Incarnation, the disciples were sent out to take the message of the Messiah to the people of Israel, "*The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*"

In this situation they are not to burden themselves with the usual logistical appurtenances associated with first-century travel. Instead, they are to depend entirely upon the Lord for their provisions, sustenance, and protection. Therefore, the good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, promises to supply their logistics, they are to concentrate on the mission.

Thus, they were not to take along with them a purse, a scrip, or sandals. What are these first two items which are to be ignored by the disciples?

In the fading days of the 20th century our custom when taking a journey is to pack a suitcase, a hanging bag, an overnight case, a toiletries bag, and a couple of carry-ons, drive to the airport, hand it all over to a redcap, rent a car on arrival, stow it all in the trunk, drive to a hotel and there tip a bellhop to carry them to our room. For the most part, we haven't carried much and have walked probably less than a mile. If we're hungry we go to a restaurant, eat heartily, and pay with plastic.

What if we were asked to start out on a tour of cities in our surrounding area? What if there were no credit cards, no restaurants, no cars? You'd have to take with you all your provisions. What you took you must be able to carry.

What you carry must be hauled on foot. Therefore, the three most important items for travel become money, food, and good shoes.

Our military trains our soldiers how to carry all they need to survive while away from the normal flow of logistics. They carry water in a canteen, personal belongings, some food, and bedding in a backpack, and weapons and ammunition on a belt. They know how to obtain some necessities as they go so that the physical burden of carrying their logistics is held to a minimum. However, inability to carry more than a few days' rations means the soldiers are at risk and thus dependent upon an ongoing logistical supply line.

From the mid-19th to the early 20th century there was a type of personality in Australia called the swagman, also referred to as a swagger or a swaggie. Those back in England looked upon them as tramps and hoboos and surely some were. But for the most part they were hardly tramps so much as roving itinerants, who wandered about asking for work, and they really could and did work if wanted. The term "*swagman*" came from the name of the bag he carried. He'd put into his swag personal belongings be it goods, money, and indeed, in some cases, stolen property.

Also included among his equipment was a tucker-bag, tucker being the Australian word for food rations. In addition to these he carried a backpack known as a matilda in which personal items were carried.

One of Australia's most famous writers is Andrew B. Paterson. In 1895 he published a collection of poems entitled, *The Man from Snowy River and Other Verses* which sold over 100,000 copies before his death in 1941. In 1917 he published a collection of verses entitled *Saltbush Bill, J.P., and Other Verses*. Included was a song which became internationally famous and later emerged as Australia's unofficial national anthem, "*Waltzing Matilda*."

Those of us in the United States don't really have a clue what this song is about since we don't know the necessary Aussie vocabulary. However, due to the intensively exhausting research of Jerry and Betty Yess, I have been made privy to it and thereby have the key to exegeting this song.