

Old Luggage

Most of us remember old style luggage or suitcases, if you will, without wheels and fancy handles and tow straps. Some of the old types were closed with less than adequate latches and usually with the help of an obese family member. Squashing suitcases into the trunk of a car was always a treat when I was a kid. No matter how my Dad “jig sawed” the overload into our ’59 Chevy Impala, Mom would always add one more thing. It wasn’t important if everything didn’t fit in the trunk as there would always be room in the back seat where the kids rode. There weren’t any seatbelts then so it didn’t really matter.

Traveling as an adult with old luggage also had a tendency to be challenging. Lugging a suitcase from one end of an airport to another would develop your shoulder muscles and give you a great cardio workout. The trek from the parking lot to the terminal would burn more calories than a week at the gym, especially if your wife packed them. Sometimes a caravan would be needed for all the baggage for a long weekend. Occasionally you’d share what you packed inside one of these overstuffed, spring loaded containers with the sidewalk outside the airport or at the ticket counter. Buying new travel gear would often cost more than the trip itself, so tipping a Skycap to off load our luggage was the best solution.

Nowadays, there is carbon fiber hard shells, expandable sides, wheels, rollers and some with cell phone chargers built right in. There is even self-propelled travel “smart” luggage that provides power assistance when it detects an incline or rough surface. With all these new types, why would anyone want to drag luggage around that’s old and outdated? Food for thought.

With Passover approaching next month and the Feast of Unleavened Bread following, now is a good time to start removing the “leaven” from our homes and even more important, from our lives (by the way this is an everyday practice). We know that leaven represents sin. As Jesus has not returned just yet, we will continue to sin so long as we are in our fleshly body. We are a work in progress. “Therefore, I, the prisoner of *the* Lord, am exhorting you to walk worthily of the calling to which you were called,”- **Eph. 4:1**. Because of our calling, we have a tremendous responsibility. We have been adopted into God’s Family and given His name. It is binding on all of us to walk worthy of that name. The process of change and growing into the image of Christ takes place over our lifetime. We have been baptized unto His death and therefore we are alive in His resurrection (**Rom. 6:3-4**). But yet we still have a human tendency to drag around our old baggage. We repented, were baptized and we were cleansed of our sins by the shed blood of our Savior Jesus Christ (**Eph. 1:7, Col. 1:14**). Jesus Christ purchased all of our old luggage with His life. Yet Satan has his way of shoving an old suitcase out in front

of us every chance he gets to constantly remind us of our past sins. But we are blessed that our God does not remind us of our past (**Heb. 8:12, 10:17**).

We must endure trials, storms and fiery darts to bring about the changes from our old self to the new man (**1 Pet. 1:7, 4:12, Eph. 6:16**) and we are to put on Christ (**Rom. 14:13, Gal. 3:27, Eph. 4:24, Col. 3:10, 12**). This character change must be in our day to day conduct as well as our demeanor at our Sabbath fellowship.

Would you tell a risqué joke if Christ were sitting next to you? Would you let slip a “ck” explicative or other coarse language in conversation to make a point if Our Lord were standing next to you (**2 Tim. 2:16**)?

“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am in the midst of them.”-**Matt. 18:20**. He is among us. Believe me I am no prude and every day I try and put the old man a little more distant in the rear-view mirror, failing quite frequently. “Therefore, purge out the old leaven, so that you may become a new lump, even as you are unleavened. For Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us.”-**1 Cor. 5:7**.

Everyday, waking up and getting out of bed (a blessing in itself) *is* a new day to grow in the ways of The Lord. I pray He takes captive our thoughts and may our actions and conduct be pleasing to Him and in accordance to His will. Search yourselves and ask God to reveal any old luggage we may be hanging onto. Jesus

already paid the price so we may travel His path without burden, dragging what is unnecessary.

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