

## Before I Go . . .

Last minute details! They seem to be the plague of every trip. How many times I have been travelling out of town with the car loaded and slapped the steering wheel. About as quick somebody in the car asks, "What did we forget?" Times away are needed occasionally by everyone. Yet, sometimes more work is needed to be done before we can get out of town than can be done, making us wander as to the practicality of leaving. Preparation is part of the process, and once the work is done, the time away is so much more enjoyable.

The organized person will no doubt have a list prepared of things that need to be done. The most critical element involved is timing. Did you leave enough time to get done what needs to be done? Or are you the kind of person that leaves a big mess that must wait until you return? The answers of these questions would depend much on the trip and the time you expect to be away.

One travelling passage that comes to mind is the occasion when Jesus was sending seventy-two of his followers out to the towns and villages of Judea to heal the sick and pronounce the kingdom of heaven as being near in Luke, the tenth chapter. He said, "Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals . . .," Luke 10:4. This gives us the idea that it was time to go, and no time for preparation.

Sometimes preparation can become an excuse for those who really are not ready to go as they should. Do you remember the follower who had determined to follow Jesus, but said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father," Matthew 8:21? Jesus' response in the following passage was, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury the dead."

Being a follower of Jesus means that you must be ready to go where He leads you, and ready to defend what He has taught you in His Word. It has always amazed me at how Peter, Andrew, James and John just left their nets when Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men," Matthew 4:19. The Bible says they left immediately.

Some Christians are thinking about getting ready to start thinking about get ready to commit to their call. Jesus said to "go" and "teach all nations." Jesus exclaimed that the fields are ready for harvest, but "the laborers are few," Matthew 9:37.

Are you ready to evangelize? Are you ready to go to heaven? The trip is a must for the Christian. It is dangerous to tarry long in much preparation. Do what must be done. Jesus said, "night is coming when no one can work," John 9:4.

We all have at least one more trip to make. The problem is that we are unaware of when our departure will take place. Get ready! When the Lord comes for us there will be no time to say, "Before I go . . ."

—Scott