

Carrying Jesus
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Jesus said, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now."
John 16:12

This scripture is rather unassuming, but trust me, it carries within it a powerful teaching for us all. Think of the word "bear" as something you carry with you. Jesus realized that the emotions of the moment and the depth of His teaching had reached a saturation point for His disciples. They simply could not carry any more. Do you see the assumption Jesus just made? As Jesus taught His disciples, He intended for those teachings to be carried around with them everywhere. Why? Because they didn't know the right way through this life. And neither do we. So, as followers of Jesus, we also carry His teachings with us. When we do, it's as if we carry Jesus himself.

Perhaps you will do some traveling this summer. If so, I imagine you will also pack some luggage for the trip. On any given day of your journey, you'll have to decide what to carry with you from your luggage. It's easy to bring too much and get weighed down. It's also easy to bring too little and be left unprepared. The question to ask yourself is, "Am I really going to need this?" Do you really need an umbrella? What about the sunscreen? An extra pair of socks?

Jesus?

Is Jesus on your packing list? Ok, probably not. That would be kinda weird. But don't leave Jesus at home either! We don't take vacations from Jesus. We take vacations with Jesus. We carry Him with us wherever we go. Actually, times away with Jesus have a way of deepening our faith. When we break out of the normal rhythms of life, we can get some perspective. Jesus often went up a mountain to escape from the crowds. What did He do up the mountain? He prayed. It's like He packed His bags full of His dependence on His Father, and when He got to the top of the mountain He used every bit of it... in prayer.

Actually, the secret to great times away is to carry Jesus along! Looking for a relaxing escape from the grind? Carry Jesus along and turn it into spiritual renewal. Visiting family or friends? Carry Jesus along and leave your loved ones encouraged and fulfilled by your time together. Going sightseeing? Carry Jesus along and you'll see opportunities aplenty to bless others along the way. If your travels include a Sunday, find a local church where Jesus is preached. Bearing even more Jesus isn't a burden! "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:30

Have a great summer everyone!