

Esther & Emmett – July 4 2021

Emmett: Hi Esther. Am I glad to see you.

Esther: Hi Emmett. I'm glad to see you too.

Emmett: Do you think you could help me. I have to get ready for a trip.

Esther: Get ready for a trip?

Emmett: Yes, I'm going to go on a trip, just like the disciples of Jesus did!

Esther: What kind of help do you need? Do you need help packing?

Emmett: Sort of ...I can't really pack because Jesus told his disciples not to take a bag ...and not to take any bread...and no money...

Esther: It sounds like you know what NOT to take with you!

Emmett: Yes, but there are some things I am supposed to take. I'm supposed to wear sandals...I can do that so long as it's not winter.

Esther: What else are you to take.

Emmett: Well, Jesus said something about tunics...but I don't know what a tunic is...wait, maybe it's a typo...maybe he meant tuna...maybe I'm supposed to take a can of tuna!

Esther: Oh Emmett! A tunic was a piece of clothing people wore during the time of Jesus. It was like a shirt or a coat that you slipped over your head. It usually hung down to your knees or even lower, and you tied a belt around the waist of it.

Emmett: Oh, that's good. That won't be as heavy as cans of tuna. The other thing I need some help with is hiring some people to work for me.

Esther: To work for you! Doing what?

Emmett: I don't know...I just know that I have to have some people who work for me and they have to come on the trip with me.

Esther: Why do you think that?

Emmett: Because Jesus told his disciples to take their staff with them...so, I need a staff...I need to hire some people!

Esther: Oh Emmett...not that kind of staff!

Emmett: No...then what kind of staff was Jesus talking about?

Esther: Jesus meant a large stick ...a walking stick...a staff...like in Psalm 23 when the writer says that the good shepherd's rod and staff comfort us. People who travelled often carried a staff to help them walk and also as protection from any wild animals.

Emmett: Wild animals...you mean like wild sheep?

Esther: Well, maybe other kinds of animals. I can help you find a staff...but, I don't really think Jesus was telling us what to take with us when we travel.

Emmett: Of course he was! He was sending his disciples out, two by two...that's nice, they'd always have a friend with them...Jesus was sending them on a journey...that's what the Bible says.

Esther: Yes, Jesus was sending his disciples out – two by two – to visit villages and to tell people about God's love and to heal people and bless them.

Emmett: Yeah, to do the kind of stuff that Jesus was doing – telling people that God loves them.

Esther: And showing them how to love each other...that's why Jesus told them not to take money, or a bag, or extra clothes...

Emmett: ...or tuna? What were they going to eat? You can't eat one of those tunic things, can you?

Esther: No, you can't. The disciples were going to have to depend on other people sharing food with them.

Emmett: Really!...wait, Jesus did that too. Jesus shared food with people!

Esther: I think Jesus wanted people to care for each other, to welcome each other as friends, as members of God's big family.

Emmett: But what if no one would share any food with the disciples?

Esther: If that happened, Jesus said, just brush any dust off yourself and head off to the next village.

Emmett: Brush the dust off yourself! Brush the dust off yourself! Why'd they do that?

Esther: It was a reminder. Just like they were not supposed to carry any heavy baggage with them, they also shouldn't carry any angry or mean thoughts about the people who didn't welcome them. Just brush off the dust, brush away the memories and go on.

Emmett: That sounds like a good thing to do. Jesus was pretty smart.

Esther: And Jesus trusted that God is always with us, and that just as God loves each of us, we should love each of us.

Emmett: So, I don't really have to go on a trip to do what Jesus wants me to do – I can love people and share with people right where I am!

Esther: Yes, you can. We all can love each other right where we are.

Emmett: If I had some people who worked for me, I would show my love by sharing some tuna with my staff.

Esther: And Jesus would say Amen to that.

Emmett: Amen!