

EXCESS BAGGAGE

By Phillip Love

Setting: Modern day, two guys, Phil and Aaron, hiking in the woods

Props: Hiking attire, two backpacks (1 small, 1 large), various items in the backpacks

Theme: God will help heal your past hurts and failures. He wants us to live in the hope of today, not the shortcomings of yesterday.

[*Hikers enter stage. Phil is carrying the larger bag and is lagging behind.*]

P: Aaron, wait up. I've got to rest. I'm completely exhausted.

A: Come on, man. This is the third time we've stopped in the last mile. Why in the world did you bring that ridiculous bag anyway? It's just a day hike, you know.

P: Hey, this stuff is important to me. Sheesh, I only brought the bare necessities anyway.

A: Okay, okay. Get yourself some water and rest for a minute.

P: Water? I didn't bring any water.

A: You mean to tell me that you packed that huge bag full of [*mocking*] "bare necessities," and you don't have any *water*?

P: Well, by the time I had all of the really important stuff packed, there wasn't any room left for it.

A: Important stuff? What in the world do you have in that thing anyway?

P: Just stuff that's important to me. It doesn't matter, anyway. It wouldn't interest you.

A: Well, what is it? Come on, show me.

P: Well, alright...But you have to promise not to make fun of me.

A: You betcha. Cross my heart and hope to eat sweet potato pie.

P: Okay, first I have this picture of a girl I dated once.

A: Really? I've known you for years and I don't remember you ever dating anyone.

P: No, that's because the first girl I dated ripped my heart out of my chest and left it beating on the sidewalk.

A: Wow, that must have been painful. How long were you together?

P: Um, well, it was...uh..2...days, I think.

A: 2 days?

P: Yeah, give or take. In third grade we sat together after school in parent pick-up.

A: In third grade?

P: Yup, but then she decided she like sitting with little Jimmy Buffington butter, and it was all over.

A: Alright, so you've got a picture of your third-grade girlfriend. What else could possible be so important?

P: Um, I have this baseball bat.

A: Good grief man. What in the world are you doing with a baseball bat?

P: You see, there was this bully in elementary school who liked to pick on me a lot.

A: Did he hit you with a baseball bat????!!!

P: No *SHE* just used her fists. I carry the bat for protection.

A: She?

P: Hey, if Norma-Jean had beaten you up, you'd carry a baseball too.

A: Point taken. So, is there anything else in that bag of tricks of yours?

P: I've got a dumbbell. [*Pulls out dumbbell with no weights attached*]

A: Dare I ask why you brought a dumbbell with you hiking?

P: It's so I can work out and get stronger if we have any free time. [*He struggles to curl the empty dumbbell*]

A: Phil, I hate to be the one to break it to you, but there's no weight on that dumbbell.

P: I'm trying to work back up, okay. I haven't worked out in a while. I took weight training in high school, and the coach always made me work out with his son because we could lift about the same amount. We were both seniors...the only thing was that I was a senior in high school, and he was a senior in elementary school.

A: Well, I'm sure if you work out some more, you can get stronger.

P: No, I'm pretty sure I can't. I've tried. I just wasn't like the other guys...and I'm still not. That's why I've got this book. I like to do things like read and write, not just work out and play sports. But does that make me that different? Is that any reason for people to pick on me and despise me?

A: No, no it's not. It's not at all.

P: But who am I kidding. No one's really ever loved me anyway. That's why I brought this bear. This is the last thing my dad gave me before he left. Actually, it's probably the only thing he ever gave me. I haven't seen my dad since I was eight years old. I miss him so much.

A: Phil, it sounds like you've been through a lot of hurt in your life. I know it had to be hard, but you don't have to carry it all with you. Look at you, you can't even go on a simple hike because of all that junk from your past that you're hauling around with you. It's keeping you from your potential...it's keeping you from being the person that God wants you to become. Wouldn't you like to be able to leave all of that behind? Wouldn't you like to be able to live without all of that pain weighing you down?

P: Yes, I'd love to do that...but I've been carrying this stuff around for so long, that I'm not sure that I can leave it behind.

A: It won't be easy, and it will probably be painful. But God loves you, and He will heal your heart from all of the hurt that's weighing you down...but you have to let him.

P: I'd really like that.

A: Well, come on. Let's get going...but why don't you leave that stuff here.