**“A Wrench, a Hammer, and a Railway Schedule”**

While initiating the first successful commercial airline travel, TWA (Trans-World Airways, circa 1930-2001) interviewed roughly 2,000 young and attractive women (who had to be between 5’ and 5’ 4” tall and weigh between 94 and 105 lbs.) for 43 positions for the new position of “Air Stewardesses.” It’s new flagship airplane was the McDonnell-Douglas DC-3. During WWII, this iconic aircraft (the military version, C-47) was said to be one of the pivotal pieces enabling the Allied victory. But after the war, it was the still the early days of civilian air transport. Previously, air travel was the realm of the wealthy and elite. It was, at the time, very *rough* (since the planes flew at about only 5,000 feet maximum and therefore subject to heavy turbulence), very *loud,* very *cramped,* and even noxious (from exhaust/fuel vapors leaked into the porous cabins).

But let’s get back to young ladies for a moment. These new “Air Stewardesses” went through rigorous training. They were subjected to various devices, designed to test and improve their resilience to motion sickness, that spun, bounced, and dropped and heaved them into the air. Then too, they were heavily schooled on how airplanes worked so as to be able to competently explain such to worried passengers in flight to comfort and calm their fears. And of course, they were also well indoctrinated on emergency procedures. However, perhaps the most fascinating part of all the duties and requirements placed upon these young women was what they were required to wear. Each “Air Stewardess” was required by TWA to board the aircraft wearing a cape that had rather large pockets. These pockets contained the compulsory elements each one was required to bring with her onto the plane- a **wrench** (surely of the adjustable variety), a **hammer,** and a **Railway Schedule** (to be ready to assist passengers in making “alternative travel arrangements” should the flight fail for any reason to reach its appointed destination)!

Let’s think about their *preparedness kit* in relation to our spiritual journey through life:

**Wrench-**

* Sometimes we need to *tighten up/down* our mental resolve and commitment, 1Pet.1:13-16 (*anazonnumi-* to *gird* or bind up long flowing garments close to the body tightly with a leather belt).
* Sometimes we need to *loosen up* on our worries and anxieties, Phil.4:5-7.

**Hammer-**

A hammer is an essential tool to any kit; to *move* what should move and *doesn’t;* to *force into place* what is moving and shouldn’t. Our heads/hearts sometimes need to *move* when they don’t; and sometimes need to stay put when they want/try to move. Note two specific words from Jas.3:17.

* *Reasonable,* from *eupeithes,* refers to being *easily obeying, compliant;* thus *moveable in mind.*
* *Unwavering,* from *adiakritos,* means being *without ambiguity* or *uncertainty.*

**Railroad Schedule-**

* An *alternate means/mode of transport* to reach the intended destination.
* Here there is simply no other *alternate means-* Jesus Christ is it, Acts 4:12!
* The other day, while mowing, it dawned on me: Muhammad, Buddha, or no other “man/figure” has time reckoned according to them. Even to unbelievers and skeptics, surely this *Man* was/is at the center of it all, Col.1:15-20. No other way!