



Go Zero-Based

“Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this:

*The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease.
Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each
morning.”*

Lamentations 3:21-23 (NLT)

I had a new boss—a tough old guy. Seasoned. As the saying goes, there was a new sheriff in town.

I managed an R&D group with multiple development teams. Three others led similar groups, and all four of us now reported to him.

It was budget season.

“Things will be different this year,” he announced. “We’ll be using a zero-based approach. You’re not guaranteed a budget. You’ll have to justify all spending from zero.”

What?!

Every project would be evaluated from scratch and compared against all others. Only the top projects would be funded.

The past no longer mattered. And the future? There would be no future if we didn't make it through today.

So it is with life.

What do we really have that is more valuable or precious than today?

We wake up, and the day lies before us—a gift, packed with God's mercies, fresh for the day.

"Then Moses told them, 'Do not keep any of it until morning.' But some of them didn't listen and kept some of it until morning. But by then it was full of maggots and had a terrible smell." (Exodus 16:19–20)

Like the manna given each morning, Israel could gather enough for that day. No stockpiling. No living off yesterday's provision.

Daily dependence on God: Today's bread. Today's grace. Today's mercies.

Are his plans different for us?

What if God is wanting us to live **Zero-Based** lives—receiving his mercies anew each day?

Reflect: **How are my past and future entangling me?**

That budget cycle was stressful, but it produced unexpected benefits. Going zero-based sharpened our focus and renewed our passion—it was liberating.

Imagine the benefits of a **Zero-Based** life.

First, yesterday's burdens—your past—would need to be released.

A friend leads workshops to help people “clear out life's backpack.” What are you still carrying from your past? Wounds, regrets, disappointments, burdens?

“Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest... For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.” Jesus Christ (Matthew 11:28–30)

What if each **Zero-Based** day began with freshly releasing yesterday's load?

Like a seasoned backpacker, strive to Travel Light!

Next, tomorrow's worries would be set aside.

They say nearly 100 percent of what we worry about never actually happens. I sometimes wonder how many years of my life I've spent worrying about things that never came to pass.

The four of us managers certainly had enough to focus on in the present. What value was there in worrying about what might happen with our groups, our jobs next week? Our task was to make the strongest case for our projects today. First things first!

“So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” Jesus Christ (Matthew 6:34)

Yes, today has enough challenges of its own.
But today also comes with fresh mercies to counteract them.

And there is surprising peace in that.

Consider: Going Zero-Based makes me focus and act on what really matters today.

Finally, we gained passionate focus—we had to stand up again for what truly mattered.

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Jesus Christ (Matthew 6:33)

Jesus makes it clear what matters most: seek first his Kingdom and live rightly before him. A command to be fulfilled day by day.

How easy it is for our imaginations to dream big, to get drawn away from the present.

I want my life to change the world. I want to make a difference.

So we search and search for that one meaningful but elusive thing, convinced, *It’s out there somewhere.*

Surprise—it’s right in front of you! It’s in your today.

Going **Zero-Based** helps you see it.

Fresh mercies give you strength to do today what matters most.

*Imagine: **Going Zero-Based** advances my Mission.*

A flywheel is motionless. How do you get it moving?

First, a small push. Then another. And another. And another.

Trying to move it with one massive shove is futile. The weight is simply too great.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down... And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.” (Hebrews 12:1)

Likewise, your Mission can feel overwhelming when you try to advance it while carrying burdens from your past and worries about the future. These weigh you down.

Can you run well while carrying them?

Make today the day for your next small push. Strip them off and focus on what matters most.

Go Zero-Based.

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- **Reflect:** *What burdens and worries am I carrying that were never meant for today?*

- **Ask:** *How are they keeping me from what matters most today?*
- **Challenge:** Each morning release them. Receive today's mercies. **Go Zero-Based!**
- Further insights: [Drop Your Excess Bags](#) ; [One Day at a Time](#)
- Don't know my Mission—[Start here!](#)

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Be a Zero-Based Follower.

"Then he said to the crowd, 'If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.'"

Jesus Christ | Luke 9:23 (NLT)



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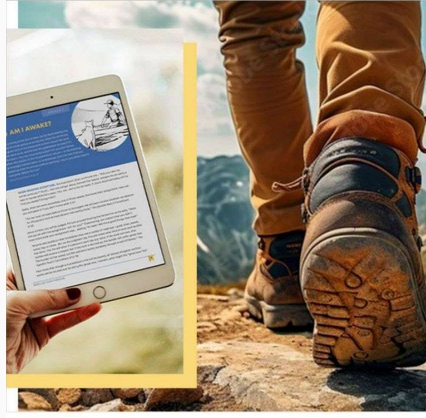
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