THE LOST LUGGAGE DREAM!

We were travelling on a train going to meet the family and friends. We met a sweet young girl and she was quite attracted to us by the Lord's Love and His Spirit and our message. As we talked, she made up her mind to get off with us and stay with us!

Suddenly the train arrived at the station, pulled in and stopped.

We ran quickly to jump off the train! European trains don't wait long, so we hurried!
We saw our loved ones waiting for us!

We were happy and excited about this girl joining us and introduced her to everyone.

But all of a sudden she said, "Oh, my bag! I left my suitcase on the train!"

The train had already started to pull out!

I quickly ran after it as fast as I could. I ran with all my might...

...and jumped on to the back of the train just in time to climb aboard!
It began to speed off to its next destination.

Hurriedly I ran through the train back to where we'd been sitting.

Thank God, the bag was still there!

I grabbed it gratefully and went to the door of the train to get off at the next stop.

The "next stop" was the same big city we'd just come from! I was back where I'd started!

By this time it was dark!

I'll ask the Information man what time the next train leaves.

Well, at least there will be plenty of trains going back!
But lo and behold he said:
Sorry, that was the last train to that village.
No more trains tonight!

"Well, there's a freight train going that way in a few minutes. Since it seems like an emergency, maybe they'll let you ride in the baggage car!"

So I ran to the freight train! It was on a side track and had only one engine and one baggage car.

So I asked the man in the baggage car if I could please ride to the next town, and explained why.

He finally sort of begrudgingly said OK, and let me climb on.
As the train left I was so thankful, and praising the Lord that I'd found the girls' luggage and had gotten a train back!

I heaved a sigh of relief as the slow train pulled into the station and let me off.

But then my heart sank with dismay!

As I looked around in the darkness of the dimly-lit station, the family was nowhere to be seen!

No doubt when they discovered that there were no more trains scheduled that night they had given up waiting for me.

So they were gone and my heart sank.
At least I felt a little better to have gotten there safely with her lost luggage.

As I stood there wondering what to do—

--- I suddenly woke up! That was the last thing I remember!

You say, "So what does that mean? So what?" Well, all I know is what happened, and there is a lesson there:

Don't get in such a haste that haste makes waste and you forget something you should have done, you leave behind a piece of luggage or you weren't prayerful and careful enough and you jerked instead of squeezing -- you didn't look before you leaped!

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP!

Sometimes leaping before you look and jerking before you squeeze and hastening just causes wasting of time instead of saving time— as it did in the case of this lost luggage! Thank the Lord we did find and save the luggage and returned it -- but too late to meet our folks and to go home for the night!

So if you're in too big a hurry you're apt to lose more time than you gain! As my wife used to say: "Dave, we don't have enough time for any of your shortcuts!"

-- How about your shortcuts? -- Be prayerful and beware!!