

## 5/12/2024: Matthew 10:40-42: Ministry's Reward

Matthew 10 concludes with a promise:

**40**“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. **41**Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. **42**And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

God gives commands and instructions, but God is a God of REWARD and PROMISE. His commands are always followed with Promises and Rewards. The promises of God are found throughout the Bible. God is a God of BLESSING and PROMISES which are tied to OBEDIENCE to the COMMANDS of God. There are different kinds or types of commands:

- Behavior or lifestyle (acts of the flesh)
- Spiritual in nature like time spent with God (in the Word, in Prayer, Worship, in Church)
- Relational (the people you choose to do life with).

The COMMAND in this final statement from Jesus in Matthew 10 is to accept the CALL to Ministry seriously and OBEY it. There will be trials and battles, there will be opposition, and it will not always be fun. Accepting this call to ministry will be worth all not only in the here and now, but the blessings and promises of God extend into eternity.

**Mark 10: 28** Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!” **29**“*Truly I tell you,*” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel **30**will fail to receive a hundred times as much *in this present age*: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—*and in the age to come eternal life.*”

It’s both/and as we see in **II Corinthians 4: 16** Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. **17**For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an *eternal glory that far outweighs them all.* **18**So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, *but what is unseen is eternal.*

God knows the difficulties we face in life. He is enlisting us into His Service. He is depending on us to do our part to build His Kingdom here on earth.

**Ephesians 2:8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9**not by works, so that no one can boast. **10**For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

The CALL on our lives is so serious that if WE do not fulfill it, it won’t be done in the way God has ORDAINED it to be. He has PREPARED IN ADVANCE the works we are to do. Knowing the difficulties we will face, He (first) tells us of them so we are prepared for what we will face. Now He gives us some PROMISES that we can hold on to:

**Matthew 10:40** “Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. **41**Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive

a righteous person's reward. **42**And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

This should remind us of the Acts 2 Church:

**Acts 2: 42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43**Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **44**All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45**They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **46**Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **47**praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

### **Areas we will be REWARDED for being OBEDIENT in:**

#### **1. The MESSAGE (*Matthew 10:40*)**

We must welcome the MESSAGE of the Gospel.

**II Corinthians 5: 14** For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. **15**And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. **16**So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. **17**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! **18**All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and ***gave us the ministry of reconciliation***: **19**that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **20*****We are therefore Christ's ambassadors***, as though God were making his appeal ***through us***. **21**God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

We are CALLED to the Ministry of Reconciliation. God is reconciling the world TO HIM THROUGH HIS SON JESUS.

**John 3: 16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17**For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

There is BLESSING and PROMISE, 'whoever receives you receives ME,' Jesus says. 'And whoever receives Him, receives The Father.' We represent Him. We are God's sons and daughters, and He will be with us, will protect us, will lead us and will guide us. He will never leave us nor forsake us. We are HIS FAMILY!!

#### **2. The MESSENGER (*Matthew 10:41*)**

We are all under authority, and all authority is ordained by God, Romans 12. In the church, there is a Spiritual Authority ordained by God. Paul wrote in Galatians 2 and in I Corinthians 14 that we have a responsibility to 'weigh what is said'. Submission to authority is scriptural and blessed by God.

One of the Blessings is we are not responsible for the decisions made by those who are in authority over us. Those in authority answer for their decisions, we will answer for ours. When we accept the 'words of the prophets and the righteous (or Godly),' when they have a word from

The Lord, we are blessed. When you receive the life-giving Word of God, AND you put them into action (as James says) you, your family, and your workplace is blessed,

### **What is meant by Prophet?**

**1 Corinthians 14:1** Follow the way of **love** and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. **2**For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. **3**But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their **strengthening, encouraging and comfort**. **4**Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies **edifies the church**. **5**I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.

### **3. IN MINISTRY:** (Matthew 10:42)

**1 Corinthians 15:1** Now, brothers and sisters, **I want to remind you of the gospel** I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. **2**By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you.

**Matthew 9:35** Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. **36**When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. **37**Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. **38**Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

**Luke 19:9** Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. **10**For **the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.**"

**Luke 15:7** I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

**Matthew 10:42** And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, **that person will certainly not lose their reward.**"

When you are a part of the MINISTRY, when you are IN MINISTRY, whatever part, you will be BLESSED and REWARDED. Jesus communicates this, 'even a cup of cold water, to the most seemingly insignificant, IT MATTERS!'

### **Questions for Conversation:**

1. Do you often get "rewarded" for the work you do? What is the best reward you have ever received for work done (c'mon, think back to your school days if you have to!)? Why do we like being rewarded? What does a reward signify to you? What have been your "rewards" for following Jesus?
2. What does "in ministry" even mean to you? Are you in ministry? If so, how and why? What are the rewards you are receiving for being in that ministry area? If not, why not? What

would being in ministry look like for you? Has your ministry area changed ever? How do you (have you) sought God for direction in ministry?

3. Why do you think it is important for us to welcome and receive Christ's message and messengers? Has there ever been a time when you were not welcoming to the Biblical message spoken to you? Have you ever experienced a time when you felt God speaking to you through someone else? How did you respond? I wonder, when you hear a message that speaks to you, have you ever shared/thanked the person who brought that message?
4. How can we practice hospitality and receptivity towards those who bring God's message or represent Him in our daily lives? What does a hospitable person/hospitality look like to you:
  - a. Is it an attitude?
  - b. Is it an action?

How do we "offer a cup of cold water" to others today?