

Matthew 10:40-42 The Right Reception of the Gospel Message

Introduction: Two by two the twelve went out to the cities of Israel to preach the gospel. Jesus warned that not all would receive them nor their message. Some individuals would reject them. Some homes would not receive them. Some whole cities would reject them. In our text Jesus informs them that some would receive them and the gospel well. The text shows a right reception of the gospel.

- I. A right reception of the gospel means the salvation of the soul, Verse 40.
 - A. The gospel presents the good news of a Savior to a guilty, hell bound sinner.
 1. He is already guilty of sin against God.
 2. He is already headed for the fires of hell. (Condemned)
 3. The gospel informs him that God loves him and has sent Jesus Christ to save him.
 4. He is urged to repent of his sin and to trust Jesus to save.
 - B. A right reception of the gospel means receiving the message bearer as a messenger of truth.
 - C. A right reception of the gospel will mean receiving the Christ as Savior, Verse 40.
 1. That man, woman, boy, or girl trusts Jesus Christ as Savior.
 2. By receiving the Christ, that person receives God the Father who sent the Christ.
 - D. A great change takes place.
 1. Christ and God dwell within in the inner man.
 2. There is a change of destiny because Christ is there.
 3. There is a change in conduct because Christ is there.

- II. A right reception of the gospel will mean right treatment of the message bearer, Verses 40-41.
 - A. Jesus had warned that some would persecute them, but this should not be true of those who receive the gospel.
 - B. The word, receive, in verse 40 in the Greek means “to receive kindly, to show kindness to, to be hospitable.”
 1. Thus not only was the message received well, but the message bearer is received well also.
 2. The apostles were not to carry money nor supplies.
 3. Someone was expected to take them in and house them and feed them.
 4. Others in the city were to assist them in their work in every way they could. (They were to supply them sufficiently to take care of their families.)
 5. They were to provide their every need.
 - C. This is a lesson some would do well to learn today.
 1. It should not be considered a burden on a people to treat God's preachers kindly and see to their need.
 2. Thees are the men whom God has sent with the words of life; it should be a privilege not a burden to care for them and aid them in their work.
 3. To the shame of some churches they do not take pride in caring for God's men but in how many they have run off.
 - D. The kindness which is to be shown to God's man should not be because of a personal fondness for him, but out of a respect for his office and calling, Verse 41. (Also verse 42 and Mark 9:41).

III. A right reception of the gospel will mean rewards from God.

- A. Three times the word “reward” is used in the last two verses – “pay wages, hire”. These will be rich rewards from God. (That is the only kind God gives.)
- B. Technically rewards do not come merely by receiving the gospel and being saved.
 1. Salvation comes by receiving the gospel.
 2. Rewards come for work done after salvation.
- C. But from the practical point of view receiving the gospel does bring rewards.
 1. It makes it possible for one to earn rewards.
 2. It is to be expected that it would result in rewards.
- D. From example our text says that the believer will be rewarded for his kind treatment of the minister of the gospel, Verse 41.
 1. According to verse 42 he is rewarded for the smallest deed of service.
 2. In the world one is rewarded only for outstanding service.
- E. Primarily rewards will not be given until Jesus returns to this world, but God has some extra choice blessings even in this life for those who render aid to His men in His cause.

Conclusion:

1. Because I know that the gospel can make the difference between heaven and hell for you, I do not hesitate to ask you to receive it and to trust Jesus right now to save your soul.
2. Because I know that the cause of Jesus is worthy, I do not hesitate to ask you who are saved to come and join us here at Pleasant Hill in serving the Lord.
3. I do not hesitate to ask every member of Pleasant Hill for your help in the cause of Christ. (I ask you little for myself, but I ask your best for Christ.)
4. I can ask your best for two reasons: 1. Christ is worthy. 2. You will be blessed and rewarded.

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