

Sovereign Grace Church
“Reward of a Prophet” outline
June 23, 2019

Matthew 10: 40-42

We have been considering the very real threat of persecution at the hands of those who receive the “good news” as “bad news”! We have seen that to be called by God to be a witness to His being and truth may not bring instantaneous unity and peace to this fallen world. Many folks are just not ready to give up running their lives and don't trust the idea of “trust” in a Being they cannot see. Jesus' “good news” also comes as a threat to those who think they already have the “good news” which everyone needs in order to live a full & peaceful life. Peoples livelihoods can become dependent upon competitors to the good news of life in Jesus' Kingdom. It is much easier just to squelch this young upstart than to go through the difficult process of re-thinking all of your assumptions and arguments.

However, not everyone who hears Jesus' good news responds negatively. Some actually hear His message as the good news that it truly is. They are prepared at least to think about it & count the cost. When Jesus sends out His disciples He sends them out dependent upon the very people to whom they seek to minister. Today we will consider the reward of those who, although not participating directly in Jesus' call to witness, are nonetheless supportive of His people & their efforts.

1. Levels of Discipleship

- **Disciples**

- **Hostiles**

- **the Masses**
Matt. 7: 28-29; Lk 8: 1-3

2. Welcoming the Twelve v. 40

- **“ones sent”**
Matt. 12: 24

- **“to receive”**
II Cor. 12: 9-10

3. The Welcomers Reward vv. 41-42

- **Prophets and Righteous Men**
Matt 5: 11-12

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. Have you ever offered some variety of hospitality to people who were offering a Christian ministry of some sort? What was the nature of the ministry? What was the nature of the hospitality? Did you have a sense of participation in providing your service?**
- 2. Do you think providing support for various ministries or missions can be falsely motivated? What are some possible false motivations for supporting good ministries? How much investigation should we pursue before lending our support to a mission or ministry? Is it possible to pursue too much investigation into a potential ministry? Why is knowledge by authority almost indispensable in these matters? What is knowledge by authority?**
- 3. Have you ever chosen to be identified with a group who were social outcasts? What are the dangers of such identification? What are the potential benefits?**
- 4. Have you ever pursued a work that required the voluntary support of the very people to whom you were seeking to minister? How did it work out? Are people who support an important ministry of less importance than those who actually carry it out? What are possible false judgments of those who are supporting the ministry? What are possible false judgments of those who are doing the ministry?**