

“The Reward of the Servant”

Matthew 10:40 – 11:1

Scripture Ref: 1 Cor 11:3; 1 Cor 6:15-17; Eph 1:3-4; Matt 28:19-20; 1 Pet 4:11; 2 Tim 1:13-14; Phil 1:27; 1 Pet 2:9; 2 Cor 5:20-21; Ps 58:11; Prov 11:18; Rev 11:16-18; Rev 22:12-13

- 1. The conclusion of our series in chapter 10: Basically Jesus give us an outline that could really be a general description of our Christian walk.**
- 2. First - Jesus chooses the team – the “B” team: People just like you and I:**
 - a. Some of us engage our mouth before we engage our brain – like Peter**
 - b. Some of us have hot tempers – like James and John**
 - c. Some of us had a shady past – like Matthew**
 - d. Some of us were radicals – like Simon**
 - e. Some of us were downers – like Bartholomew and Thomas**
 - f. Some of us were nobody’s – like Andrew, James, and Thaddaeus**
 - g. ... Yet God can use us, just like He used them – as Paul said in 2 Cor 12 “*through our weakness we will be made strong!*”**
- 3. Second - When we step out, we are going to face *obstacles and persecutions*:**
 - a. From family, from the religious establishment, through the government.**
 - b. Yet through these obstacles God will open up great opportunities**
- 4. Third - As we walk through these persecutions, we may encounter the two pronged opposition – *Fear and Division***
 - a. Fear of man: what man might do to us**
 - b. Division: When we decide to follow Christ, we immediately are in conflict with the world around us.**
 - i. We can conform to the world and be in conflict with God**
 - ii. Or we can conform to Christ and be in conflict with the world.**
 - c. But by surrendering our lives to Christ will we find the one thing we really want – LIFE!**
- 5. But the thing is, you cannot persevere through these things without a clear vision of the goal – there has to be something at the end to make it all worthwhile.**
 - a. That is what Jesus shares in this final encouragement.**

40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

6. Jesus here is revealing something about the order that God has established

a. Christ is the head of man, and God is the head of Christ

1 Cor 11:3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

b. And because you are representatives of Christ, if someone shows hospitality to you, it is the same as that person being hospitable to Christ, which is the same as being hospitable to God the Father.

c. Something that is done to the Christian, it's the same as being done to Christ.

i. (it should give us pause as to what we do, as Paul noted in 1 Cor:)

1 Cor 6:15-17

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

7. To me, this kind of helps us to better understand what it means to be an Ambassador for Christ –

a. (We often hear the term– “Ambassador for Christ” – but what does it really mean?)

8. Ambassador:

- a. An ambassador is a person who is chosen by a head of state to be a representative for that country.
- b. They are empowered with authority, and thus sthey are able to speak for, and act on behalf of, the leader that appointed them.
- c. They are expected to be loyal, and are to act in the best interest of that leader and country in all matters.
- d. They are to work to achieve the goals of the leader and the country they represent.

9. Think about that in terms of our position in Christ...

a. First, that we were chosen, and equipped for our calling

Eph 1:3-4

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,***

b. We have been given a mandate – a Kingdom mission

Matt 28:19-20

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

c. We are to called speak the word of God, and minister empowered by God

1 Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies...

d. We are to be loyal and faithful, our conduct being worthy of our King:

2 Tim 1:13-14

Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 14 That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

Phil 1:27 ...let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ

e. Indeed, Peter proclaims to us:

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

10. Question – is that how you see yourself as a Christian?

- a. I think that often we have a wrong perspective with regards to who we are in Christ
- b. We see ourselves as insignificant, passive members of the “Christian club”...
- c. we go along the best we can, try to be good
- d. We figure one day we’ll be in heaven, and hopefully we’ll get some sort of reward, if we’re good.
- e. But the bible teaches that we are much more than just passive members of the church – we are indeed Ambassadors for Christ:

2 Cor 5:20-21

*20 Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

11. We have been given a message to proclaim, a message from the King of Kings and Lord of Lords,

- a. **A message to be delivered to every man, woman, and child**
- b. **The message is the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ**
- c. **...we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.**

12. And... God has a reward waiting!

41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

13. The bible speaks quite a bit about the reward that the believer has...

***Ps 58:11** ... "Surely there is a reward for the righteous; Surely He is God who judges in the earth."*

***Prov 11:18** The wicked man does deceptive work, But he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward.*

Rev 11:16-18

16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying:

"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

14. But interestingly, it seems that here Jesus is talking about being hospitable to those who are committed to the work of the ministry that would be rewarded...

- a. Those who are hospitable to a prophet – the word here is more descriptive of a teacher.
 - b. Those who are hospitable to a righteous man, a person who is doing the work of the Lord
 - c. “one of these little ones” – the disciples
 - d. ... Jesus is talking about being a helper and a blessing to God’s ministers –
- 15. Going back to the parallel that Jesus gave us – Whatever you do with one of Gods, it’s like you did it to God Himself**
- a. And whatever you do – God remembers – He never forgets – not even them smallest thing
 - b. And one day He will return, and He will reward those who have served in His name!

Rev 22:12-13

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

Matt 11:1

Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.

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