

2nd July 2023

Matthew 10. 40 – 42

Note that today's study section is only three verses long. Glance also at 11.1 and observe that these three verses are the last verses of one of the four discourses that St. Matthew records in the Galilean ministry of Jesus.

Consider how these verses grow out of the last verse of last week's study, Matthew 10. 39.

In what way might this passage be related also to Matthew 10. 11 – 15, (a section not in our study schedule)?

Could the "prophet" and the "righteous man" (v. 41) refer to the disciples themselves?

Could they have Old Testament references (especially to the prophets)?

Could they refer more widely, as a form of general proverb?

Note that so far there has been no mention of "these little ones" (v. 42).

Consider the parallel clauses of verses 40 and 41. Note that parallel clauses are a regular feature of Hebrew poetry.

Could this whole passage have been originally a snatch of poetry composed by Jesus?

What does the passage teach us about Christian hospitality? Compare also the Third Epistle of St. John, verses 5 – 8.

Who was the one who "sent" Jesus (v. 40)?

How does Jesus know?

What do you think is meant by the "Messianic consciousness" of Jesus?



Background

Refer again to the question of the development of this passage (Matthew 10. 40 – 42) from last week's final verse, Matthew 10.39.

If "receiving Jesus" promotes "finding one's life", fulfilment or reinforcement of identity, what alternative can there be to him? BBC "South Today" has offered:

stand-up comedy	(29 <sup>th</sup> March)
video games	(30 <sup>th</sup> March)
wild swimming	(31 <sup>st</sup> March)
American football	(18 <sup>th</sup> April)

Watch for further alternatives.

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"Please return my stolen collection of porcelain birds. My whole identity is bound up in them" (Anon.)

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"O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsel and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen."

(Second Collect at Evening Prayer)