

WHOM YOU SUPPORT IS TELLING

In Matthew 10:34, Jesus emphasized that there will be division over Him and that even family will become enemies over Him. But now, in verses 40-42, He comes full circle, showing that what is indicative of true disciples is that they receive, support, and endorse fellow followers and that every effort to that end will be rewarded (cf. Mt. 10:11-15).

Matthew 10:40 (NKJV)

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

Not all will reject. God always has a remnant, and the mark of those receptive Christ's people are showing that they are receptive of Him and, in turn, the Father. Christ's people are truly His ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20).

In context, the sense seems to be that those who are willing to risk persecution to identify with and receive God's people are showing by their solidarity that they too are receptive of Christ and God the Father.

We see here a very close association between the one sent and the sender he represents. And the reception of the one is the reception of the other.

This is very similar to the sense in Matthew 25 where Christ will separate the sheep from the goats based on their treatment of His brethren – meaning His people (cf. Mt. 25:31-46). How they treat Christ's brethren (His people) is how they treat Him, which is indicative of their destiny.

Matthew 10:41 (NKJV)

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.

Here Christ enlarges on the principle laid down in verse 40. A prophet gave forth a message from God.

Those receiving the prophet would share in his reward because they too had a part in his ministry. Those receiving a righteous person because of how he lives would also share in his reward. Whether receiving those who speak for God or those who endeavor to live for God (and there is overlap here) – whatever the role of God's servant, those receiving them will share in their reward. A.T. Pierson makes this sobering application:

“Think of that if you are inclined to criticize a speaker! If you help him speak for God, and encourage him, you will get part of his reward; but if you make it difficult for him to discharge his office, you will lose your reward.” – **A.T. Pierson**

Matthew 10:42 (NKJV)

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.”

“One of these little ones” probably speaks to those in the most humble of positions or those considered to be the most insignificant of Christ’s disciples. Those so ministering to them will be rewarded for it does not matter how small the kindness shown.

All the disciples of Christ are precious to Him. None are insignificant and any ministry done for them will not go unrewarded.

“It is true that [true disciples will] be opposed, rejected, arrested, tried, imprisoned, and perhaps even killed. But let them never forget that they were representatives of the King and that their glorious privilege was to speak and act for Him.” – **William MacDonald**

And to underscore this, Christ emphasizes that anything done to encourage and support their ministry will be rewarded.

Disciples, true believers, are sold out for Jesus! Jesus is the most important love of their life. They love Jesus above all else. There will be those who hate them for it but there is also a family of true believers that will support them – and any such support will ultimately be rewarded.

The Truth by Al Martin...

“The cross does not give us a minor shift or two with regard to a few of our ethical, moral, and religious values. The cross radically disrupts the very center and citadel of your life from self to Christ. And if the cross has not done that, you are not a Christian!

My friend, FACE IT! You’re not a Christian until the cross has radically disrupted the very center and citadel of your life and brought you from a life of commitment to serve self; whether it’s religious self, moral self, proud self, covetous self, lustful self, prideful self, unforgiving self, lazy self. IT DOESN’T MATTER!

What are the focal points of the reign of your self? If you've gone to the cross in union with Christ, it's been SHATTERED!

I want you in that day when you stand with me before the Judge of the world to have Him say, "Come, you blessed," "Come, you blessed". I don't want to look at you standing there saying, "Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord! I named you in earth, I named you before the elders, I named you before the church!

I named you in prayer meeting, I named you in witness. And Lord, now Lord, Lord, did I not this and did I not that? I don't want to hear Him say: "Depart from Me; I never knew you, you worker of iniquity. You never were made a doer of the will of God."

You learned enough, and you learned what to say properly enough to be accepted for what you professed yourself to be on earth, but now the Day of Judgment has come, and the TRUTH is now to be known."

- *Al Martin*

And the only question that remains is what will the TRUTH reveal?
Is Jesus your PERSONAL LORD and SAVIOR? This is the ultimate issue!

Acts 16:31 (NKJV)

31 So they said, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved**, you and your household."

And if one is truly a believer, the expectation is that this will be revealed in support of the truth and those who stand for it. Unbelievers stand in opposition to those who stand for truth, but on the other hand true believers stand with those who stand for truth. Where do you stand?