

## **A Cup of Welcome**

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**Matthew 10:40-42 - Sermon Handout**

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### **Big Idea**

Small acts of welcome matter in the kingdom because receiving others can become a way of receiving Christ. Even a cup of cold water given in Jesus' name is seen and valued by God.

### **Sermon Focus**

Jesus has warned His disciples that mission will not always be easy. Some people will reject them, but others will receive them. Jesus reminds them that welcoming His messengers is really a way of welcoming Him.

The kingdom is not only seen in public ministry or big moments. It is also seen in simple acts of mercy, kindness, and holy hospitality.

### **Context**

- Matthew 10 is Jesus' mission discourse to the Twelve.
- Jesus sends the disciples to proclaim the kingdom and serve in His name.
- He warns them about rejection and hardship.
- These final verses end the chapter with welcome.
- In the ancient world, receiving a messenger meant receiving the one who sent him.
- Jesus identifies Himself with the disciples He sends.
- Hospitality and mission belong together.

### **Key Themes**

- Welcome as an act of faith
- Christ present in His people
- Small mercy with kingdom value
- The overlooked seen by Jesus
- Grace received and shared
- Holy hospitality
- Ordinary kindness in Jesus' name

### **Sermon Overview**

#### **Wondering Whether We Belong**

Most of us know what it feels like to enter a place and wonder if there is room for us. Sometimes one small gesture changes everything. A smile, a greeting, or someone saying, "Come sit with me," can settle a worried heart.

#### **Jesus Ends with Welcome**

Matthew 10 contains hard words about rejection, conflict, and courage. Yet Jesus ends this part of His teaching with welcome. Rejection will not be the whole story. Some people will open the door. Some will receive the message. Some will offer kindness to tired disciples on the road.

#### **The Cup of Cold Water**

Jesus uses a simple image: a cup of cold water. It is not expensive or impressive. It is something almost anyone can give. This reminds us that God sees quiet faithfulness. Small mercy is not small in the kingdom.

#### **Welcome Is More Than Being Nice**

Christian hospitality is more than politeness. When we make room for the people Christ loves and sends, we make room for Christ Himself. Welcome has spiritual weight.

#### **The Ones We Overlook**

Jesus speaks of prophets, righteous people, and little ones. The bold messenger matters. The steady servant matters. The vulnerable and overlooked matter. Churches must be careful not to miss the person standing at the edge of the room.

### **Grace Starts Where We Are**

Jesus does not ask us to begin with something beyond our reach. We can greet someone by name, notice who has been missing, write a note, offer a meal, visit the lonely, or make room for someone carrying grief.

### **The Gospel Under the Passage**

We welcome because Christ has welcomed us. We give because we have received. We make room because Christ made room for us. Before we had our lives together, grace came near in Jesus.

### **Important Observations**

- Jesus connects the treatment of His disciples with the treatment of Himself.
- Welcome is a spiritual act.
- God notices quiet mercy.
- The “little ones” are precious to Christ.
- Small things matter when offered in Jesus’ name.
- We are called to both give and receive welcome.

### **Life Application**

- Look for the person who wonders whether they belong.
- Notice the weary, quiet, and overlooked.
- Make room with your words, time, and attention.
- Offer what you have instead of waiting to do something impressive.
- Let others care for you when you are tired.
- Practice welcome at church, home, and in everyday life.

### **Reflection Questions**

1. When have you felt welcomed in a way that mattered?
2. Why does Jesus end this hard chapter with welcome?
3. Who are the “little ones” we may overlook?
4. What does a “cup of cold water” look like today?
5. How can our church practice holy hospitality this week?

### **Key Verse**

“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” - Matthew 10:40

### **Cross References**

Genesis 18:1-8 • 1 Kings 17:8-16 • Matthew 25:34-40 • Luke 10:16 • John 13:20 • Hebrews 13:1-2

### **Takeaway**

A Cup of Welcome reminds us that small acts of mercy matter in the kingdom of heaven. Because Christ has welcomed us with grace, we are called to welcome others in His name.