

LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
SERMON OUTLINE
April 18th, 2021
Matthew 10:40-41a

RECAP: Last time, we looked at the very end of this paragraph on sacrifice. Christ has been telling the disciples that this journey, and indeed all their lives, will cost them something.

THESIS: We can be confident and encouraged to know Jesus identifies with our word and mission.

EXEGESIS: Matthew 10:40 (see also Mark 9:37, John 13:20)

v. 40, *“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.”*

- This verse implies the doctrine of **representative discipleship**. As we saw in v. 25, we as disciples do quite literally represent Christ to all those around us, within and outside the church.
- **Greek:** this Greek verb *“dekomai,”* is the keyword here. It’s very simple, it means to “accept, receive, take as a gift, etc.” We saw this in v. 14, where Christ says reception involves *listening to your words*.
- Praise God Christ does *not* say here, “I will not identify with you if you aren’t a perfect model of me!” He knew these disciples were hardly perfect representatives!
- **Lange:** **“Your cause is Mine, and the cause of God.”**

v. 41a, *“The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward,”*

- **Prophets.** Remember at this point in time, it was still technically possible for prophetic utterances to happen.
- **What is that reward? What reward would a prophet get?** Jesus does not state this here, and nowhere in Scripture does God anywhere lay out any specifics about future rewards, etc.
 - We must very generally assume we are talking of eternal life, joy, and the Kingdom of God.
- **“because he is a prophet.”** **NOTE:** The Greek literally reads, “in the *name* of the prophet.” In other words, he receives the prophet because of his name. His reputation. His known name and integrity.
- *We are, generally speaking, as disciples, also mouthpieces of God’s Word.* We are certainly more so in the general sense, not the elected inspiration sense.

CONCLUSION:

1. **We can be strengthened knowing Christ is behind our message. He identifies as His own people. How they treat you is how they treat Him. He personally cares as to our treatment.**
2. **We are called to be faithful mouthpieces that speak the words from our Master to the world. This is a high calling to be glad for, and something we hope to spread!**
3. **Lange:** “The witnesses of Christ must not be afraid of the detrimental consequences which the message of peace brings, so far as this world is concerned.—A Christian may well invite others to share the cross, since he invites them to share the crown.”