

Final lesson: The reward of the little ones. Our view of people – and the building of the church.

I. VIEWING PEOPLE INCORRECTLY

A. We can view people incorrectly in pioneering/Pastoring

1. There are people we value/we want in our church: Sometimes not for totally correct motives
2. Jesus speaks of 'little ones' – the contrast would be important ones
 - a. **People with money:** We hope they will give us some – so we pander to them
 - b. **People who make us look good:**
 1. *Reports: We have models/bankers/scientists in our church: How that makes me look!*
 - c. **People we enjoy:** *Pleasing personalities/people on our wave-length; We relate to them easily*
 - d. **People who aren't a mess:** *Baptist Pastor – 'these young people have no \$ and they're a mess!'*

B. If you approach ministry this way:

1. You will limit your ministry:
 - a. You will overlook many who God wants to reach
 - b. You will lose people: *People can tell if you love them*
 - c. You will produce people with small hearts: *They will not have hearts to include/reach out/help*
 1. *Matthew 23:15 ...make one convert, and then you turn that person into twice the child of hell you yourselves are!*
2. You will displease God: Cause Him to withhold His favor

II. INVESTING THE LITTLE ONES

A. Jesus has already dealt with the issue of receiving ministry in previous verses

1. He is not simply repeating Himself – He is shifting the metaphor/picture:
 - a. **V41** *if you receive...prophet/righteous man*
 - b. **Matthew 10:42** *And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."*

B. A correct focus of ministry involves the little ones

1. Those who are insignificant
 - a. No wealth/no power: *The test of ministry is how you treat people who can do nothing to you, and nothing for you*
 - b. With problems/needs (*they need water!*)
 - c. Whose lives are messy
 - d. Personalities that are not pleasing/enjoyable: *Not like us. With personality quirks*

C. Investment is required for effective ministry

1. You have to invest into other people's needs **V42** *give a cup of cold water to one of these little ones...*
 - a. It takes attention/time/awareness (*what do they need?*)

III. THE REWARD OF THE LITTLE ONES

A. Our scrip reveals that Ministry is a partnership:

1. No one can do it by themselves: Prophet/righteous men/little ones/you
 - a. Don't try and do it by yourself: *Equip/allow others to play a part*
2. Every person has a part to play: *Many different needs/roles/ministries in a church*
 - a. Your job is to give people the understanding of fellowship/partnership: *The value of their role*

B. The promise God gives is reward

1. When we function correctly: God adds His blessing to our labors
 - a. **Acts 2:47** *praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*
2. The reality is that God sees everyone's part – and he rewards
 - a. He credits people with the reward of those they invest in
 1. **Matthew 10:41** *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.*
 - b. He blesses people's lives now – b/c of their labor/investment
 - c. He accurately sees and rewards in eternity