

*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 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