Lesson 5 (6/28): Matthew 10:40-42 — Welcoming Christ Through Others

Scripture Focus

As Jesus concludes His instructions to the disciples before sending them out, He teaches that how people receive His followers reflects how they receive Him. Even small acts of kindness done in His name have significance in God's Kingdom.

Read the verse(s) aloud

Memorable quotes/notes:

Historical / Linguistic Context

- Hospitality was a critical social and religious practice in the ancient world. Travelers often depended on the generosity of others for food, lodging, and protection.
- Jesus creates a chain of representation: receiving a disciple is receiving Jesus, and receiving Jesus is receiving the One who sent Him.
- A "prophet's reward" or "righteous person's reward" does not necessarily mean identical rewards, but participation in God's work through supporting His servants.
- The "cup of cold water" symbolizes a simple, accessible act of kindness. Jesus highlights that faithful service is not limited to grand gestures.

Discussion Questions

1. How does this passage challenge the idea that only public or dramatic acts of service matter?

2. What are some "cups of cold water" that people can offer today?

3. Have you ever been encouraged in your faith by a simple act of kindness? What made it meaningful?

CLOSING PRAYER