

Scripture for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 28, 2020

Introduction to the Gospel Lesson: Matthew 10:40-42

Our Lesson of the last three verses in the 10th chapter of the gospel of Matthew is titled, "Rewards." In the preceding verse Jesus says, "Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." Undoubtedly, the disciples need some further clarification. Let us remember Jesus is instructing the disciples in the ways of discipleship, discipleship leading to their becoming affirmed as apostles. One commentator says this: "Participation in the kingdom of God is the reward of the righteous person. It is not wholly extrinsic like the gold stars and the round of applause. The righteousness Jesus is talking about in Matthew carries with it an intrinsic reward, one that is an integral part of the action of welcome and kindness. Such righteous acts participate in and point us toward God." Listen now to a reading from the gospel of Matthew:

A Reading from Matthew 10:40-42

⁴⁰ "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."