

Local Missions (Finale)

Matt. 10:40-42. Mark 6:12,13. Luke 9:6.

Gustavo Modolo Nogueira

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Introduction –

Wrong Rewards: The Louvre assault.

Right Rewards: Christmas morning & Work's paycheck.

Contrast: The false prosperity gospel's reward & the true spiritual and relational reward.

1. Jesus is the reward. (v.40)

- a. Salvation through the preaching of the Gospel.
- b. Romans 10 – confess Christ and preach Christ.

2. Fellowship is the reward. (v.41-42)

- a. Illustration in the O.T – Joshua.
- b. Illustration in the N.T – Paul.
- c. Contrast between the right way and the wrong way.

3. The work is the reward. (Mark 6:12,13 & Luke 9:6)

- a. Quick recap of previous sermon.
- b. Reading Mark & Luke.

Conclusion.

The reward is worth the hard work.

Personal illustration.

Last week, we talked about the importance of being vocal about our faith. *Confession of faith* was the core idea of the text:

- What is concealed in your heart, shout it from the rooftops.
- Those who confess Christ before others are the ones who truly fear God.
- Those who are not vocal about Christ before others are the ones who fear man.

In summary, confession of faith is not a one-time act to become a member of the local church. It is a daily expression of your faith—out there, where the world most needs to hear about Jesus.

On the other hand, as the transparent leader that he is, Jesus prepares his disciples for what they must be ready to face:

- Ideological resistance
- Physical resistance
- Family resistance

It's important to remain sober-minded when we talk about persecution. Not all persecution will necessarily happen to us individually. We must remember that Jesus is addressing every disciple—past, present, and future—in every part of the world. Most of us are physically safe here in Canada, and despite religious differences within our families, many households still get along.

Today's Sermon – The Finale

We're looking at the final verses of this chapter and Jesus has encouraged his disciples to do the work throughout this chapter. In the very middle of the chapter, he warned them about the cost of preaching the Gospel—persecution and resistance. Now, he closes with a beautiful theme: **rewards**.

The idea of reward is two-fold:

- The one who preaches is rewarded.
- The one who receives is rewarded too.

It's like Christmas morning, when everyone opens their gifts and rejoices—so do those who receive the Gospel. It's like the honest worker who receives his paycheque after labouring—so do the disciples, after preaching the Gospel, receive their reward.

Matthew 10:40–42

“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

(Matthew 10:40-42)

1. Jesus is the reward

(v.40) Notice the similarity in Jesus’ words: earlier, he said if you confess him, he will confess you before the Father. Now he flips the idea—if you receive the messenger, you receive the message.

The message is the Gospel: the King has come with salvation and forgiveness of sins. The principle is simple: salvation is by grace. You can only confess Jesus if you first receive him—if he is first preached to you. (*Romans 10*)

2. Fellowship is the reward

(vv.41–42) When Jesus is preached, he is preached by a believer. Once Jesus is received, that person becomes a fellow believer. The new Christian is now integrated into the local church, and the fellowship begins.

Jesus mentions the prophet, the righteous person, and the little ones—he’s describing the fellowship of the local church. All Christians need:

- A prophet—someone with spiritual authority over them
- A righteous person—someone who walks beside them
- A little one—someone they can teach

In practical terms: There must be someone in your life you learn from, someone you walk with, and someone you teach.

Old Testament Illustration: Joshua

- Prophet: Moses
- Righteous companion: Caleb
- Little ones: the Israelites

New Testament Illustration: Paul the Apostle

- Prophet: The apostles before him

- Righteous companion: Barnabas
- Little one: Timothy

There is a reward for each kind of relationship. God uses fellowship as a means of grace. Salvation comes by grace alone, straight from heaven (v.40), but the rewards in verses 41–42 are tied to people. If we disconnect from people, we disconnect from the reward itself.

Application: *There is a wrong way to do life—isolated. There is a right way to do life—surrounded by godly relationships.*

3. The work is the reward (Mark & Luke)

Before we conclude this sermon—and with it, this series—let’s revisit the previous messages’ theme:

a) The agenda of the Church.

“The Church exists by mission, just as a fire exists by burning.” —Emil Brunner, Swiss theologian

b) We need to be vocal.

“The greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.” —Martin Luther King Jr.

I know this series has been challenging. You have heard that *“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few...”*

There is so much work to do and the pastor kept reminding you, Sunday after Sunday—he sounded like a broken record: “The (future) members of this church are out there. We have a responsibility to fill these empty seats...”

I know it’s been a hard journey, but there’s purpose in it. We conclude this series by reading the mission’s report:

“They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.”

(Mark 6:12–13)

“So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.”

(Luke 9:6)

