

1 **A Cup of Cold Water**

- Matthew 10:40-42

2 **Scripture**

- “Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” (Matthew 10:40, NIV)
- “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.” (Matthew 10:41, NIV)
- “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 10:42, NIV)

3 **Introduction**

- We Americans don’t really care for tepid water.
- If a waiter brought us a glass of warm water, we'd probably ask him to take it back and replace it with cold water.
- The little word “cold” used in this passage is psuchros in the Greek.
- Jesus didn't have to add that word. He could just as easily have said “a cup of water.”
- But he specified cold water.

4 **Introduction**

- Well, what's the big deal about that? We can get cold water whenever we want.
- At home, it’s as easy as taking ice cubes from the refrigerator and filling up a glass.
- At work or school, refrigerated water fountains and water coolers are everywhere.
- Sit down in a restaurant, and a glass of cold water just appears.
- In fact, it’s the one beverage you don’t have to pay for — and often don’t even have to ask for.

5 **Cold water - Rare Pleasure**

- Drinking cold water was a rare pleasure in the ancient world.
- It didn’t happen all that often, and when it did, it just tasted so good!

6 **Cold water - Extra Effort**

- Drinking cold water meant also that someone went to a lot of trouble for you.
- Running water hadn’t been invented, of course. Nor had refrigeration.
- A household’s water supply came from the village well.

7 **Cold water -Extra Effort**

- It started out cool in the early morning when someone — usually one of the women or girls — walked down to the well with a clay jar, filled it, and came staggering back with it balanced on her head.
- She would set the heavy clay jar in a shady space inside the house.

- However, as the hours went by, it lost that cool, crisp, fresh-from-the-well taste.

8 **Cold water - Extra Effort**

- By late afternoon — the time most thirsty dinner guests were likely to arrive — you were lucky if room-temperature water was what you had left.
- At that time of day, a room in a first-century Palestinian house was just about at its hottest.

9 **Cold water - Healthier**

- Drinking cold water was healthier than drinking water that had been sitting around for a day.
- Today's refrigerated water supply from an office water cooler or drinking fountain is plentiful. Most of us take it for granted.
- But we've forgotten something important, something our ancestors would have known all too well.
- Those familiar appliances arose out of a pressing need — the need for sanitary drinking water in cities where typhoid was an ever-present scourge.

10 **Cold water - Healthier**

- In fact, this is the reason the first drinking fountains were developed — it was a matter of disease prevention.
- To combat typhoid in his company's workforce, a Packard Motor Company plant manager named Halsey Taylor developed the first drinking water fountain as we know it. It was manufactured in Warren, Ohio.
- Eventually Taylor added refrigeration, because the cooler water temperature inhibited the growth of bacteria.

11 **Cold water - Healthier**

- Drinking-fountain manufacturers have continued to innovate.
- The latest efforts — reflecting ecological sensibilities — minimizes the use of disposable plastic water bottles.
- It's a refrigerated water-bottle filling station which is now seen in many airports, gyms and other locations.

12 **Context of Chapter 10**

- The story here about the giving of a “cold” cup of water was Jesus' final instruction to his disciples before they were to embark on their preaching assignment.
- He wasn't telling them . . .
 - Don't forget their hat, scarf and coat,
 - Never mix whites and colors in the washing machine,
 - Don't give in to peer pressure, or
 - Always wear clean underwear, in case you end up in the emergency room.

13 **Context of Chapter 10**

- Jesus' advice to his disciples is of a different order. He tells them:

- Preach and teach and heal with boldness.
- If the people in one village want nothing to do with you, don't waste your time there, move on to the next.
- Travel light.
- Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.
- Don't worry about what you're going to say; trust God to give you the right words, in the nick of time — it will happen.

14 **Context of Chapter 10**

- When things get really bad (and they will), people may even hate you. Even your own relatives may hate you. Remember, they can kill the body, but not the soul.
- Those who seek their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.
- With these and similar words of wisdom, Jesus equips his disciples for their bold, risky and momentous journey.

15 **Who are these "Little Ones?"**

- Getting back to our text, it may surprise you who these "little ones" are.
- Normally, you would think that Jesus is exclusively talking about little children, but he isn't.
- He is talking about the least of those who are His disciples, which include both you and me.

16 **Who are these "Little One?"**

- So then,
 - When someone honors a prophet, they will be blessed and rewarded.
 - When someone honors a righteous person, they will be blessed and rewarded too.
 - Even when someone honors "any" of Jesus' disciples, they will be blessed and rewarded as well.

17 **Abrahamic Covenant**

- What is going on here is not only the "law reciprocity," which is give and you shall receive.
- But also, at work is the Abrahamic Covenant, which is still in force and is the foundation of our New Testament Covenant in Christ.
- Basically, the Abrahamic Covenant was a covenant given to Abraham, where the destiny of all nations and peoples will be determined by how they honor or dishonor Abraham and his "seed," which is Christ.
- I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:3 NIV)

18 **Abrahamic Covenant**

- According to the Apostle Paul, . . .

- The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ. (Galatians 3:16 NIV)
- If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:19, 29 NIV)
- So then, how the people of this world treat us “little ones,” will determine their well being as well.
- Because since we, through faith, are in Christ, the world, believe it or not, blesses themselves by honoring us and our message.

19 **The Sheep and the Goats**

- “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.” (Matthew 25:31 NIV)
- “All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” (Matthew 25:32 NIV)
- “He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.” (Matthew 25:31–33 NIV)

20 **The sheep and the Goats**

- “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’” (Matthew 25:37 NIV)
- “‘When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’” (Matthew 25:38–39 NIV)
- “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’” (Matthew 25:40 NIV)

21 **What’s the Point!**

- The point is this, the world is going to be judged on how they treat us—those of us who are in Christ and therefore in Abraham.
- If they go “out of their way” to honor or help even the least of us, they will be blessed and rewarded.
- But if they ignore, mistreat, or persecute us, they will reap what they sow.
- If fact, judgment is coming on the world for the way they are mistreating us.
- So then, let us go “out of our way” to help and honor one another no matter what their status and position is in the family of God.

22 **Summary**

- Giving a “cold drink of water” in the ancient world was something that required that you go “out of your way.”
- The “little ones” is the “least of Jesus’ disciples.”
- When people honor them, they will be blessed through the “law of reciprocity,” which is also known as the law of sowing and reaping.

- The same is true with us ministering to each other.

23 **Conclusion**

- Therefore, let us take to heart the final words by the Apostle Paul to the church at Galatia.
 - Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9 NIV)
 - Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6:10 NIV)