**Righteous Man’s Reward**

In Mt10.40 - 42 there are several rewards to be had.

Firstly, whenever a person receives us, they receive Jesus and Him who sent Jesus, i.e. the Father. So in receiving us they are blessed by having Jesus present as well.

The next reward is for us who are Christians or for anyone who is willing to acknowledge that a person is a prophet. If we receive a prophet, and acknowledge him as a prophet, we receive a prophet’s reward. We receive a prophetic word from God. Saul did this before he became king. His father’s donkeys were lost and Saul together with a servant went looking for them. Eventually they go to Samuel to ask about the donkeys and Samuel gives them a word from God. If we are willing to receive a person as a prophet, we will receive the prophetic word that God has for us.

Thus, when we turn our attention to that of a righteous man, what sort of reward do we receive? Do we receive righteousness? The Greek word for ‘righteous’ comes with the idea of doing what is right. The concept is that of keeping to what is correct regarding the law and customs; acting in a proper way. Thus, if we receive a righteous person as a righteous person, then we can receive advice regarding what is the right way of doing something; the proper path to take. The advice we receive will guide us to act in a righteous way, a way that is pleasing to God.

Finally there is a reward for giving charitably to a person in need. If we give it in the name of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, then Jesus Himself will ensure we are rewarded for doing something that He would be pleased to have done Himself.

Why should God put the prophet and the righteous man’s reward next to each other? Because they complement each other! It is not just that the two sayings have the concept of ‘reward’ in common but that the rewards are themselves a compliment of each other. The prophet gives a vision, a long term goal. The righteous man gives the right way of achieving that goal. However, we must realise that there is a lot of over-lap between these two concepts. Just as wisdom and knowledge over-lap each other; just as the rhema word of God and the logos word of God often over-lap each other (e.g. the rhema word sometimes quotes the logos word!), so the prophet’s reward and the righteous man’s reward will often over-lap each other.

Bill Hunter 2015