

Luke 10:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.

Analysis

Jesus tells the seventy: 'He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.' This establishes apostolic authority—reception or rejection of Jesus' messengers equals reception or rejection of Jesus Himself, and ultimately God the Father. The Greek 'athetōn' (ἀθετῶν, despiseth/rejects) means to set aside, nullify, treat as invalid. Rejecting Christ's ambassadors rejects Christ; rejecting Christ rejects God. This validates gospel messengers' authority while warning those who reject them.

Historical Context

This encouraged the seventy returning from their mission (vv. 17-20). They faced rejection in some places (v. 10-12), which could discourage. Jesus assured them that rejection wasn't personal but rejection of Him and ultimately God. This principle appears throughout Scripture—prophets represented God (Jeremiah 25:4), rejecting them rejected God (1 Samuel 8:7). Apostles carried Christ's authority (2 Corinthians 5:20, 1 Thessalonians 4:8). Early church understood that persecuting Christians persecuted Christ (Acts 9:4-5). Modern application: faithful gospel preaching carries divine authority; rejecting the message rejects Christ regardless of messenger's human weakness.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' identification of Himself with His messengers teach about the authority of faithful gospel preaching?
2. How should understanding that rejection of the message equals rejection of Christ affect our evangelistic confidence?

Interlinear Text

Ο	ἀκούει	ὑμῶν	έμοῦ	ἀκούει	καὶ	ό	ἀθετεῖ
G3588	He that heareth	you	me	He that heareth	and	G3588	despiseth
	G191	G5216	G1700	G191	G2532		G114
ὑμᾶς	ἐμὲ	ἀθετεῖ	ό	δὲ	ἐμὲ	ἀθετεῖ	ἀθετεῖ
you	me	despiseth	G3588	and	me	despiseth	despiseth
G5209	G1691	G114		G1161	G1691	G114	G3588
ἀποστείλαντά	με						τὸν
him that sent	me						
G649	G3165						

Additional Cross-References

John 13:20 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

Matthew 10:40 (Parallel theme): He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

1 Thessalonians 4:8 (Parallel theme): He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

Mark 9:37 (Parallel theme): Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.

John 12:44 (Parallel theme): Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.

John 12:48 (Parallel theme): He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Matthew 18:5 (Parallel theme): And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

Malachi 1:6 (Parallel theme): A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

Acts 5:4 (Parallel theme): Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

Luke 9:48 (Parallel theme): And said unto them, Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me: for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.