

Luke 10:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

Analysis

And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. The command *en autē de tē oikia menete* (ἐν αὐτῇ δὲ τῇ οἰκίᾳ μένετε, "in the same house remain") prohibits moving between houses seeking better accommodations. The present imperative *menete* (μένετε) indicates continuous action—settle in and stay put. This prevented appearing ungrateful or status-seeking.

The phrase **eating and drinking such things as they give** (esthiontes kai pinontes ta par' autōn, ἐσθίοντες καὶ πίνοντες τὰ παρ' αὐτῶν) commands acceptance of whatever hospitality is offered, without demanding special food or accommodations. This applies especially cross-culturally—later, Peter's vision in Acts 10 would expand this to include ceremonially unclean food when ministering to Gentiles.

The crucial theological principle follows: **for the labourer is worthy of his hire** (axios gar ho ergatēs tou misthou autou, ἄξιος γὰρ ὁ ἐργάτης τοῦ μισθοῦ αὐτοῦ). The word *axios* (ἄξιος) means "worthy" or "deserving"; *misthos* (μισθός) is wages or payment. Paul quotes this exact principle in 1 Timothy 5:18, establishing biblical support for compensating those in ministry. Gospel workers deserve support from those who benefit from their labor.

Historical Context

Ancient hospitality customs involved status competition—hosts vied to provide the best accommodations, and guests sometimes moved to better lodgings. Jesus prohibited this behavior to maintain humility and prevent offense. The principle of supporting teachers was established in Judaism (Numbers 18:31; Deuteronomy 25:4) and continued in Christianity. Paul defended his right to financial support (1 Corinthians 9:14) while sometimes waiving it to avoid burdening churches. The early church supported traveling ministers, prophets, and apostles through hospitality and gifts.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the command to 'remain in the same house' combat status-seeking and ingratitude in Christian ministry?
2. What does 'eating and drinking such things as they give' teach about cultural flexibility and humility in cross-cultural ministry?
3. How does the principle that 'the labourer is worthy of his hire' establish biblical grounds for compensating pastors and ministry workers?

Interlinear Text

ἐν αὐτοῦ δὲ τῇ οἰκίᾳ μένετε ἐσθίοντες καὶ
in the same And G3588 house remain eating and
G1722 G846 G1161 G3614 G3306 G2068 G2532

πίνοντες τὰ παρ' αὐτοῦ ἄξιος γὰρ ὁ ἐργάτης τοῦ
drinking G3588 give the same worthy for G3588 the labourer G3588
G4095 G3844 G846 G514 G1063 G2040

μισθοῦ αὐτοῦ ἐστιν μὴ μεταβαίνετε ἐξ οἰκίαν εἰς
hire the same is not Go from house to
G3408 G846 G2076 G3361 G3327 G1537 G3614 G1519

οἰκίαν
house
G3614

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 6:6 (Parallel theme): Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

2 Timothy 2:6 (Parallel theme): The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.

Mark 6:10 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.

Luke 9:4 (Parallel theme): And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart.

Acts 16:15 (Parallel theme): And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

Acts 16:34 (Parallel theme): And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

1 Timothy 5:13 (Kingdom): And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

Deuteronomy 12:12 (Parallel theme): And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that is within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you.

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