

Mark 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.

Analysis

And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place. Jesus provides hospitality protocol for the traveling disciples. 'In what place soever ye enter into an house' (ὅπου ἐὰν εἰσέλθητε εἰς οἰκίαν, hopou ean eiselthēte eis oikian) assumes they will receive housing invitations. 'There abide till ye depart from that place' (έκεῖ μένετε ἕως ἂν ἐξέλθητε ἐκεῖθεν, ekei menete heōs an exelthēte ekeithen) commands staying with the first host offering hospitality rather than seeking better accommodations.

This instruction served multiple purposes: preventing appearance of seeking comfort or favoritism by moving to wealthier homes, avoiding offense to initial hosts who showed generosity, maintaining focus on ministry rather than housing upgrades, and demonstrating contentment with God's provision. The principle teaches gospel ministers should gratefully receive hospitality without constantly seeking better situations. Contentment with God's provision, even if modest, honors Him and those who serve. The command also created accountability—staying with one family meant that household witnessed the disciples' lives consistently. Reformed theology emphasizes contentment as mark of godliness (1 Timothy 6:6-8)—finding sufficiency in God's provision rather than constantly seeking more.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern hospitality was sacred duty—travelers depended on community generosity for food, shelter, and protection. Accepting someone's hospitality created bond of obligation and friendship. Moving from one host to another could insult the first host, implying their provision was inadequate. Itinerant teachers sometimes developed reputation for seeking wealthy patrons—Jesus' instruction prevented His disciples from this appearance. The command to stay 'till ye depart from that place' meant remaining with one host family for the entire ministry period in that town/village, potentially days or weeks. This created stability for ministry and prevented distraction of house-hunting or social climbing. Ancient moral philosophers often addressed proper guest behavior—excessive demands, overstaying welcome, or constant movement to better accommodations damaged reputations. Jesus' instruction ensured disciples wouldn't develop reputation as freeloaders or opportunists. Early church leaders (Paul, 1 Corinthians 9:4-15) discussed proper support for ministers, balancing right to receive provision with wisdom about creating offense or appearing motivated by money.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this command to remain with the first host challenge the modern tendency to constantly seek better circumstances or opportunities?
2. In what ways might restless pursuit of 'upgrades'—in ministry, career, relationships, or possessions—reveal discontentment with God's current provision?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἔλεγεν	αὐτοῖς	Ὥοπου	ἐὰν	εἰσέλθητε	εἰς
And	he said	unto them	In what place soever	G1437	ye enter	into
G2532	G3004	G846	G3699		G1525	G1519
οἰκίαν	ἐκεῖ	μένετε	ἔως	ἄν	ἐξέλθητε	ἐκεῖθεν
an house	there	abide	till	G302	ye depart	from that place
G3614	G1563	G3306	G2193		G1831	G1564

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