

Matthew 10:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence.

Analysis

Jesus provides protocol: 'into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence' (εις ην δ αν πολιν η κωμην εισελθητε εξετασατε τις εν αυτη αξιος εστιν κακει μεινατε εως αν εξελθητε). 'Enquire who is worthy' (εξετασατε τις αξιος) means find someone of good reputation, likely meaning receptive to the gospel and able to provide hospitality. 'There abide' instructs staying put rather than moving between hosts. This prevents appearance of seeking better accommodation or offending first host by leaving. Stability in one location creates community center for ministry. The instruction balances missionary mobility (moving town to town) with local stability (staying with one host per location).

Historical Context

Ancient hospitality was sacred duty, especially in Jewish culture. Travelers depended on hospitality for survival. However, hospitality could be abused by opportunists. Jesus' instruction to stay with one worthy host avoided offense and demonstrated contentment. Moving between hosts suggested either dissatisfaction or seeking advantage. Staying put honored the host and created stable base for ministry. Early Christian missionaries followed this pattern (Acts 16:15, 40). The practice built relationships and allowed sustained teaching rather than hit-and-run evangelism.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does seeking a 'worthy' host teach about wisdom in ministry relationships?
2. How does staying with one host demonstrate contentment and honor?
3. What is the balance between missionary mobility and local stability in Christian ministry?

Interlinear Text

εἰς	ἢν	δ'	ἄν	πόλιν	ἢ	κώμην	εἰσέλθητε	ἐξετάσατε
into	G3739	And	till	city	or	town	ye shall enter	enquire
G1519		G1161	G302	G4172	G2228	G2968	G1525	G1833

τίς	ἐν	αὐτῇ	ἄξιός	ἐστιν·	κάκεῖ	μείνατε	ἔως	ἄν
who	in	it	worthy	is	and there	abide	G2193	till
G5101	G1722	G846	G514	G2076	G2546	G3306		G302

ἐξέλθητε
ye go thence
G1831

Additional Cross-References

Job 31:32 (Parallel theme): The stranger did not lodge in the street: but I opened my doors to the traveller.

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.

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