

Matthew 10:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when ye come into an house, salute it.

Analysis

Jesus instructs greeting protocol: 'when ye come into an house, salute it' (εισερχομενοι δε εις την οικιαν ασπασασθε αυτην). 'Salute' (ασπασασθε) means greet with blessing, likely 'Shalom'—wishing peace, wholeness, and God's favor. This isn't mere politeness but spiritual transaction: offering God's peace to the household. The greeting initiates relationship and announces the kingdom's presence. Ancient greetings carried spiritual weight, not just social convention. This instruction elevates every encounter to sacred significance. Kingdom workers don't simply accomplish tasks; they carry God's presence and peace into every space entered. The greeting establishes the tone: messengers of peace, not judgment; servants, not overlords; blessings, not burdens.

Historical Context

Jewish greetings typically invoked God's blessing: 'Peace be unto you' (Shalom aleichem). These weren't empty formalities but genuine blessings invoking God's favor. Ancient cultures took greetings seriously as establishing relationship tone. Jesus' instruction connects to His identity as Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) and His mission to bring God's peace. Early Christians continued this practice: letters typically began with peace greetings (Romans 1:7, 1 Corinthians 1:3). The greeting 'grace and peace' became distinctively Christian formulation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does viewing greetings as spiritual blessings transform our daily interactions?
2. What does it mean to carry God's peace into every situation we enter?
3. How can we make our greetings more than social convention but genuine spiritual blessing?

Interlinear Text

εἰσερχόμενοι	δὲ	εἰς	τὴν	οἰκίαν	ἀσπάσασθε	αὐτήν·
when ye come	And	into	<small>G3588</small>	an house	salute	it
<small>G1525</small>	<small>G1161</small>	<small>G1519</small>		<small>G3614</small>	<small>G782</small>	<small>G846</small>

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 25:6 (Parallel theme): And thus shall ye say to him that liveth in prosperity, Peace be both to thee, and peace be to thine house, and peace be unto all that thou hast.