

Matthew 10:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.

Analysis

Jesus explains conditional blessing: 'if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you' (και εαν μεν η η οικια αξια ελθω η ειρηνη υμων επ αυτην εαν δε μη η αξια η ειρηνη υμων προς υμας επιστραφητω). The peace offered isn't automatic but conditional on reception. 'Worthy' (αξια) means receptive, responsive, welcoming. If the household receives the messengers and message, God's peace 'comes upon' them—blessing actualized. If they reject, 'peace returns' to the messengers—blessing withdrawn. This establishes sobering reality: gospel brings either blessing or judgment depending on response. The messengers aren't diminished by rejection; the peace returns to them. But rejectors lose opportunity for blessing.

Historical Context

Ancient Jewish culture understood conditional blessing. God's covenant promises required faithful response. Jesus radicalizes this: response to His messengers determines blessing or curse. The peace offered is the kingdom's presence and salvation. Acceptance brings God's reign; rejection leaves people under judgment. Early church experienced this: some cities received them gladly (Berea, Acts 17:11), others rejected violently (Thessalonica, Acts 17:5). Paul's pattern of turning from rejecting Jews to receptive Gentiles (Acts 13:46, 18:6) follows this principle.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does conditional blessing teach about human responsibility in receiving God's grace?
2. How should Christian witnesses respond when their message is rejected?
3. What does peace 'returning' to messengers reveal about God's sovereignty in gospel proclamation?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἔαν μὲν ἢ ἡ οἰκία ἀξία ἐλθέτω ἡ εἰρήνη
And **if** G3303 **be** G3588 **the house** **worthy** **come** G3588 **peace**
G2532 G1437 G5600 G3614 G514 G2064 G1515

ὑμῶν ἐπ' αὐτήν· ἔαν δὲ μὴ ἢ ἀξία ἡ εἰρήνη
let your **upon** **it** **if** **but** G3361 **be** **worthy** G3588 **peace**
G5216 G1909 G846 G1437 G1161 G5600 G514 G1515

ὑμῶν πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἐπιστραφήτω
let your **to** **you** **return**
G5216 G4314 G5209 G1994

Additional Cross-References

Luke 10:6 (Peace): And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.