

Matthew 10:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.

Analysis

Jesus addresses rejection: 'whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet' (και ος εαν μη δεξηται υμας μηδε ακουση τους λογους υμων εξερχομενοι εξω της οικιας η της πολεως εκεινης εκτιναξατε τον κονιορτον των ποδων υμων). Shaking dust was Jewish practice when leaving Gentile territory, symbolizing separation from uncleanness. Applied to Israel's cities, it's devastating: you're treating covenant people like pagans. The gesture declares: we brought God's kingdom; you rejected it; we testify against you; we're done. It's not vindictive but testimonial—public witness that gospel was offered and refused. The action liberates messengers from responsibility for rejection while establishing rejectors' accountability.

Historical Context

Pious Jews shook dust from feet when returning from Gentile lands to avoid bringing ceremonial uncleanness into Israel. Jesus instructs using this same gesture toward rejecting Israelites—shocking reversal. Paul and Barnabas enacted this at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:51). Jesus Himself couldn't shake dust from unrepentant cities but pronounced woes (11:20-24). The gesture wasn't personal offense but prophetic sign of judgment. It declared that rejectors placed themselves outside covenant community through their refusal. Early church understood that gospel creates division: acceptance or rejection, blessing or curse.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does shaking dust from feet teach about appropriate responses to gospel rejection?
2. How do we maintain gospel urgency while respecting human free will to reject?
3. When is it appropriate to move on from resistant people or places in evangelism?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ὃς ἐὰν μὴ δέξηται ὑμᾶς μηδὲ ἀκούσῃ τοὺς
And **whosoever** G1437 G3361 **receive** **you** **nor** **hear** G3588
G2532 G3739 G1209 G5209 G3366 G191

λόγους ὑμῶν ἐξερχόμενοι τῆς οἰκίας ἢ τῆς πόλεως
words **of your** **when ye depart out** G3588 **house** **or** G3588 **city**
G3056 G5216 G1831 G3614 G2228 G4172

ἐκείνης ἐκτινάξατε τὸν κονιορτὸν τῶν ποδῶν ὑμῶν
of that **shake off** G3588 **the dust** G3588 **feet** **of your**
G1565 G1621 G2868 G4228 G5216

Additional Cross-References

Acts 18:6 (Parallel theme): And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

Acts 13:51 (Parallel theme): But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium.

Nehemiah 5:13 (Parallel theme): Also I shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the LORD. And the people did according to this promise.

Mark 6:11 (Parallel theme): And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

Luke 9:5 (Parallel theme): And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

John 13:20 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

Matthew 18:5 (Parallel theme): And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

1 Thessalonians 4:8 (Parallel theme): He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

Mark 9:37 (Parallel theme): Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.

Luke 9:48 (Parallel theme): And said unto them, Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me: for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.

