

# Matthew 10:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

## Analysis

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Christ promises 'He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.' The phrase 'in the name of' means 'because of their character as'—not merely hosting anyone who claims the title, but welcoming them specifically because they represent God. The promise of sharing the reward underscores that those who support God's servants participate in their ministry. This isn't salvation by works but reward for faithful service. The distinction between 'prophet' and 'righteous man' may indicate different types of ministers or emphasize both speaking (prophet) and living (righteous) aspects of testimony. Reformed theology applies this to supporting pastors, missionaries, and faithful witnesses—those who enable ministry through prayer, hospitality, and financial support receive corresponding blessing.

## Historical Context

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In Jesus's time, prophets and righteous teachers often lived itinerantly, depending on believers' hospitality. With no church buildings, salaries, or institutional support, traveling ministers relied entirely on those who received them. The Old Testament established patterns of supporting God's servants (1 Kings 17:8-16, 2 Kings 4:8-10). Jesus Himself depended on supporters (Luke 8:3). The early church

continued this practice (Romans 16:1-2, 3 John 5-8). Ancient hospitality was costly: feeding, housing, and protecting guests for extended periods. Yet believers who provided such support enabled the gospel's spread. The principle also deterred persecution: hosting known Christians was itself risky, making such hospitality a concrete act of faith.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How do you support those in gospel ministry—and do you recognize this as participation in their eternal reward?
2. What's the difference between supporting true prophets versus enabling false teachers?
3. How does this challenge modern individualism that sees ministry as others' responsibility?

## Interlinear Text

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ὁ	δεχόμενος	προφήτου	εἰς	ὄνομα	προφήτου	μισθὸν
G3588	He that receiveth	a prophet	in	the name	a prophet	reward
	G1209	G4396	G1519	G3686	G4396	G3408
προφήτου	λήψεται	καὶ	ὁ	δεχόμενος	δικαίου	
a prophet	he that receiveth	and	G3588	He that receiveth	a righteous man	
G4396	G2983	G2532		G1209	G1342	
εἰς	ὄνομα	δικαίου	μισθὸν	δικαίου	λήψεται	
in	the name	a righteous man	reward	a righteous man	he that receiveth	
G1519	G3686	G1342	G3408	G1342	G2983	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 6:10** (Righteousness): For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

**2 John 1:8** (Parallel theme): Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

**Genesis 20:7** (Prophecy): Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine.

**1 Corinthians 9:17** (Parallel theme): For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

**Matthew 16:27** (Parallel theme): For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

**Matthew 6:18** (Parallel theme): That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

**Romans 16:23** (Parallel theme): Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.

**Matthew 6:6** (Parallel theme): But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.