***Matthew 10:42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.***

This past week, we had a wonderful time of Bible school. More than 50 individual children and young people came through the doors, parents and grandparents were welcomed, people in the community found friends and neighbors here. God was at work all week. One of the things that the world has misplaced in recent years is a sense of community. A community loves one another, helps one another, welcomes one another. One of my favorite sayings is – preach the gospel always everywhere and use words if necessary. Our life must preach the Gospel. Parents, grandparents, children, and grandchildren saw people loving their neighbor, welcoming community, and being children of God. For that, I am very grateful.

Our scripture begins - *And whoever gives one of these little ones.* When we read “little ones”, our mind flies to the image of a child. The Greek has the idea of least – this same word is used to describe the mustard seed – in this case, it is someone easily dismissed by society. This applies to believers, not just children - those that are not in a position of power – the poor, the sick, the widowed, the addicted, the powerless – the most humble of followers is what must spring to our mind when we read these words. Then, notice that Jesus says gives **one** – our ministry, our discipleship, our provision of God’s Love to others happens one by one by one. I often wonder when I see a man on the street in a city screaming at the top of his lungs about Jesus – how many really hear? Do any feel discipled? The love of Christ is passed one by one – one child, one adult, one hurting human at a time. We gather in this church to be fed on Sunday, to gather the Word of God into baskets, as the disciples did after feeding the 5000, then take it forward and feed others, one by one. I can scream on a street corner for people to repent, but it will never have the impact of a grandparent, parent, aunt, uncle, sister, brother teaching a child.

Jesus continues - *only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple.* The smallest gesture – a cup of cold water - done in the right way, with a right heart, can have an eternal impact. We cannot know, this side of eternity, the impact the smallest, most insignificant of kindnesses we show may have. With Jesus as Master, every act of kindness has eternal, unlimited potential. Jesus is telling us – be in the RIGHT details. Be in the details that are Kingdom focused. How do we win those Christ is calling? One at a time. One phone call, one visit, one letter, one conversation, one kindness, one act of provision by God’s Grace, at a time.

Christ finishes - *assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.* Whether the one extending Christ’s Love to others is a prophet or a righteous man, as in verse 41, or the humblest of servants – Whoever does this in the Spirit of Jesus will not go unnoticed in heavenly realms. God sees. Hebrews 11:6 says *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a* ***rewarder*** *of those who diligently seek Him.* Our work here on earth is doing one of two things – we’re either laying up treasure here – moth eats, rust destroys, thieves steal, we leave it behind when we die – or we are laying up treasure in heaven, valuable treasure, true riches, eternal value – moth doesn’t eat, rust doesn’t destroy, thieves can’t steal, it’s there when we get there – The treasure bound for heaven Christ rewards, God sees and is pleased.

Last week in Bible School, divine details about Jesus were shared with little ones. Searching souls found a place to rest. The community was offered a place of peace and unity, a place to belong. Not everyone will receive it, but everyone was offered. This week, let’s look at the details we’re investing in. Do they have eternal impact? Too often, we allow self-interest to eclipse the Spirit. What is Christ seeing and placing carefully in with the treasures of heaven? Our answer today will have great importance in our everlasting tomorrow.

If you have never given your life to Jesus, do that today, assure your everlasting tomorrow. He’s knocking. Won’t you answer the door and receive His Peace you so desperately seek?

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