

Bouquet Caboodle



Highland Lectionary Series

June 28, 2026

Incognito

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans
6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Today's Big Idea

Jesus cryptic saying about rewards holds powerful truths about our identity as Christ followers and about the ways God identifies with His people.

Applying Poetic Parallelism to this Cryptic Saying of Jesus

Host	Guest	Reward
Whoever	Receives you (the twelve)	Receives Me (Jesus)
Whoever	Receives Me (Jesus)	Receives Him Who sent Me (Father)
The one	Prophet (because he is a prophet)	Receives a prophet's reward
The one	Righteous person (because he is a righteous person)	Receives a righteous person's reward
Whoever	Gives a cup of cold water to one of these little ones (because of being a disciple)	Will not lose his or her reward

The "Host" column refers first to the imminent mission encounters of the apostles, and by implication anyone anywhere in the world encountering Jesus' followers; The "Guest" column refers to the disciples, and by implication, all subsequent disciples of Jesus across the world and through time; The "Reward" column refers to the consequence of welcoming/supporting /loving/helping/listening to Jesus' disciples

Followers of Jesus are Jesus *proxies* (imitators, authority, wisdom, love & belovedness), *prophetic* (truth-tellers in a world of lies), *righteous* (right with God and congruent with God's ways), and *little ones* (humble, needy, idealistic, innocent)

The reward of welcoming and supporting Jesus followers is to share in their rewards and is ultimately to embrace and be embraced by God Himself, present **incognito** in His children and in all who are vulnerable (see Matthew 25:31ff)

The Key Excerpts for This Week's Thematic Thread

<i>Genesis 22:1-14</i>	<i>Psalms 13</i>	<i>Romans 6:12-23</i>	<i>Matthew 10:40-42</i>
22 After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." 9 When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." 13 And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."	1 How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? 2 How long must I bear pain in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? 3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death, 4 and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed"; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken. 5 But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. 6 I will sing to the Lord because he has dealt bountifully with me.	2 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. 13 No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. 20 When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.	40 "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; 42 and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."