



*Notes for Adult discussion groups at
On-Line@9 Worship Service
29 June 2008*

Welcome

Today's reading from Chapter 10 of Matthew's Gospel continues the theme from the last two weeks about how Jesus sent the twelve disciples to take His message to the surrounding towns and villages. He has been telling them that it will not always be an easy thing to do. However, if they stick at it, they will not need to be afraid or be worried about what to say or do, because God will be with them, and they will receive His blessings. The Chapter is rounded off today by the reassurance Jesus gives them that there will be places where they will be well received, where people will listen and respond because they are bringing God's word.

Matthew 10 v 40-42

40 "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. **41** Whoever welcomes God's messenger because he is God's messenger, will share in his reward. And whoever welcomes a good man because he is good, will share in his reward. **42** You can be sure that whoever gives even a drink of cold water to one of the least of these my followers because he is my follower, will certainly receive a reward."

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1. How do we feel when new people come to join our worship?
2. How prepared are we to listen to the views of other Christians about the Christian faith, even if they don't agree with us?
3. How willing are we to welcome new insights about the Christian message from other Christians?
4. Do we see worship as an opportunity to share our individual insights and experiences of the Christian faith? Do we feel confident enough to bring a particular message, in the knowledge that it will be welcomed by others? Would this help us all to grow and develop in our faith?

If you wish, write on the 'welcome footprint' a message:

- (i) which you feel you have brought with you this morning, to be shared with others; or
- (ii) which you have received this morning and will be taking away with you.

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