*“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” – Matthew 10:40*

1. Introduction - Connection to last week’s Gospel
	1. Jesus is talking about discipleship – what does it mean to follow him
	2. Disciples are not above the master
	3. Importance of remaining faithful
	4. The nature of the Gospel as divisive
	5. Take up your cross and follow me
2. Analogy
	1. Do what I say and not what I do
	2. As a child this seemed oppressive and unfair
	3. As an adult/parent it seems like the norm!
	4. In the Church we are often guilty of this sort of behaviour too
		1. Love your enemies – but historically the church hasn’t done a good job of that
		2. Care for the poor, the needy, the outcast – the Church often fails at that too
	5. Sometimes in the church we believe that receiving the Gospel is a spiritual matter
		1. Different ways of thinking
		2. New sense of morality
		3. Personal devotion to God
		4. But this doesn’t always translate to how we live and speak
3. Jesus doesn’t seem to make this distinction in our Gospel today
	1. When Jesus says whoever welcomes you, welcomes me there is a connection between the message and the messenger
	2. Jesus is saying that believing in the Gospel is not merely an intellectual or spiritual pursuit – but that the messenger is as important as the message
	3. He says that if people find cause to love the disciples enough as to welcome them into their homes, then Jesus himself will be present
	4. This is pretty radical – Jesus is saying that those who welcome the disciples, those who hear their message of the Gospel, are in fact receiving Jesus into their midst.
	5. ‘Go now in peace’ – God will be there watching from above – Jesus is saying in fact God’s presence is with us, is in us, that people encounter God in us when we share the Good News

 “*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.” – Matthew 10:42*

1. There is a radical consistency between the Jesus we proclaim and ourselves
	1. How we act and how we speak need to be congruent
	2. As followers we must strive to live out the radical love, hospitality, generosity, forgiveness that we experience from God in Jesus
	3. If we are unwelcoming, uncharitable, unloving – is it any shock that people don’t believe in Jesus? Don’t want to come to worship?
	4. The flipside is also true (perhaps moreso for us Anglicans) – our words must match our actions
		1. We cannot believe that our lives/actions are merely good enough
		2. Jesus is present in his disciples (with others) when the message and messenger are congruent – our lives and our words need to match.
2. As Church we are called to share the Good News of Jesus (evangelism) and live lives shaped by that Good News (Outreach, Fellowship, Worship, Reconciliation etc.)