



BEHOLD THE KING

MATTHEW

“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.”

Matthew 10:40

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Matthew 10:40

receives = welcome, embrace warmly

When you welcome Jesus's followers,
you are welcoming Jesus.

“And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town.”

Matthew 10:14

“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.”

Matthew 10:16

He's been teaching us how to experience...

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- God's abundance even in scarcity.
- a multifaceted relationship with culture.
- freedom from fear.
- kingdom identity formation.

Three Examples -

- receives a **prophet** -

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“because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward” (41a)

Three Examples -

- receives a prophet -
- receives a **righteous person** -

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- receives a prophet -
- receives a **righteous person** -

“because he is a righteous person will
receive a righteous person’s reward” (41b)

Three Examples -

- receives a prophet -
- receives a righteous person -
- gives one of these **little ones** -

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- receives a prophet -
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“even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward” (42b)

What are these examples saying?

Four options -

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1. **repeating** -

Four options -

1. repeating -

2. **descending** -

Four options -

1. repeating -

2. descending -

3. **ascending** -

- prophets

- prophets

“And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”

1 Corinthians 13:2

- prophets
- righteous men

- prophets
- righteous men

“as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.”

Philippians 3:6

- prophets
- righteous men
- little ones

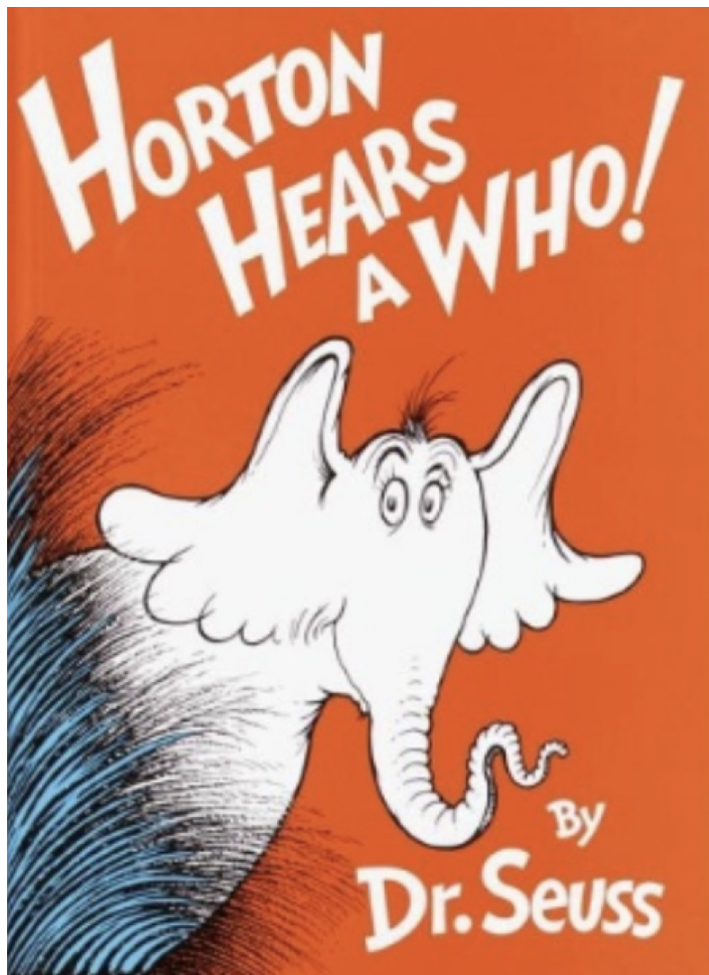
Four options -

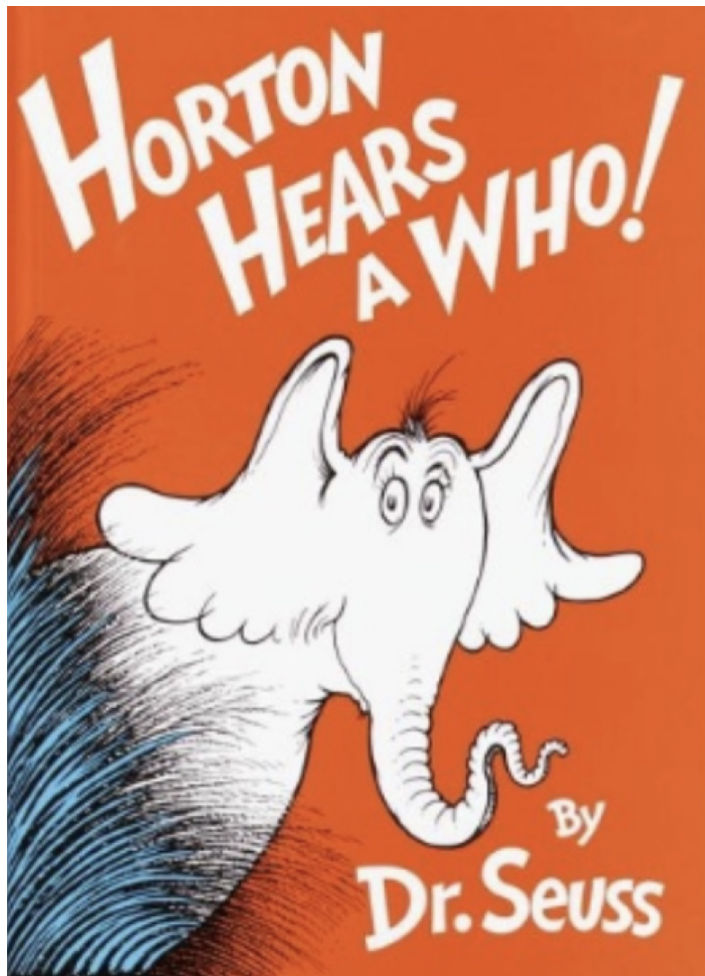
1. repeating -

2. descending -

3. ascending -

4. **including** -





“A person’s a person, no matter how small.”

Dr. Seuss

* The **simplest** kindness shown to the
smallest disciple will be rewarded
as if done to **Christ himself**.

What does this mean for us?

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1. Jesus **identifies with** his people.

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“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting **me**?”

Acts 9:4

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

Hebrews 4:15

“Our tendency is to feel that the more difficult life gets, the more alone we are. As we sink further into pain, we sink further into isolation.

“The Bible corrects us. He is in us, and he bears our pain with us. We are never alone.”

Dane Ortlund

“If one member suffers, all suffer together;
if one member is honored, all rejoice
together.”

1 Corinthians 12:26

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1. Jesus identifies with his people.
2. Jesus's followers are characterized by **welcoming**.

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“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

Romans 15:7

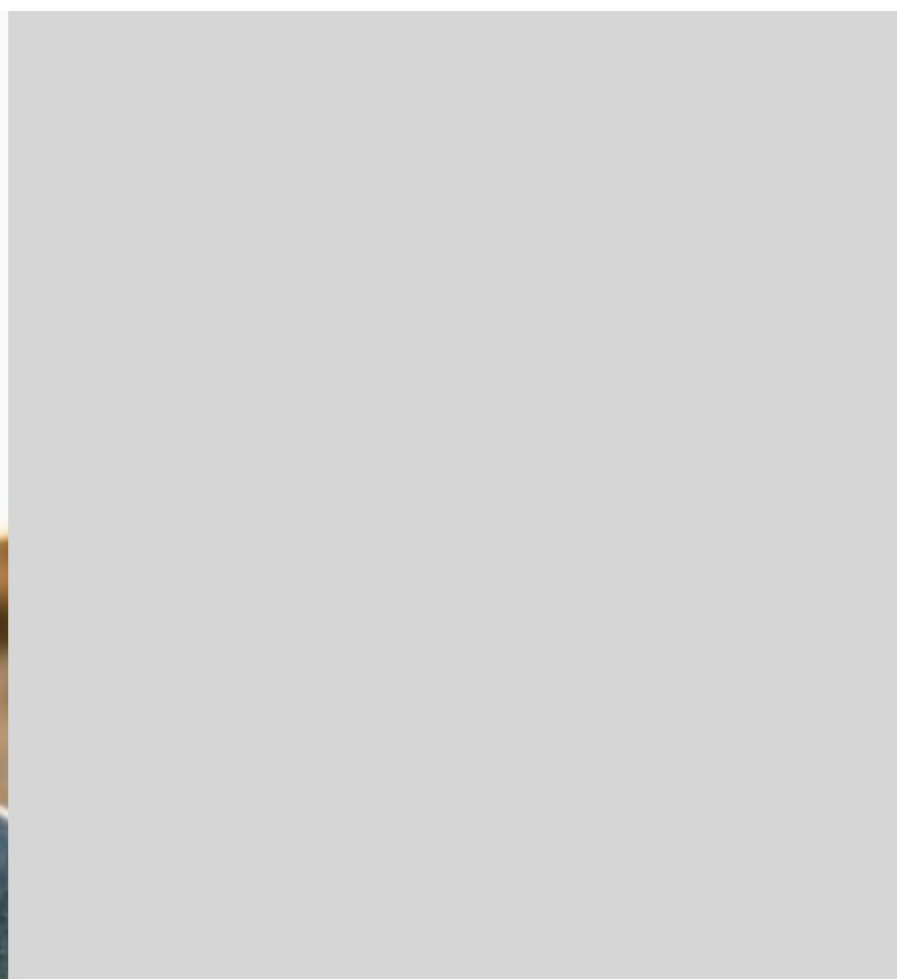
“A crisis of institutions would present itself perhaps most powerfully as a crisis of our inner lives – of despair and isolation, loneliness, and loss of purpose.

“Such social shapelessness is how we can be at once too confrontational and too lonely, in touch with everyone and yet untouched by anyone, alienated together.

“It is how everyone can claim the mantle of the outsider at the same time.

“It results from the lack of place, connection, and belonging that are functions not just of being alone but also of being adrift, denied roles that might help us fit as parts into a larger whole.”

Yuval Levin





“I want nothing to do
with Jesus or the
church.”

Ian Harber

“The church is the community of the gospel, a place for sinners and sufferers who acknowledge their need for Jesus and each other.”

Jeremy Treat

“You don’t have to be best friends with everyone in your church to experience this.

“Every relationship, every connection, no matter how strong or loose, forms a relational web that can hold the weight of our sin, sorrow, and cynicism better than we can on our own.

“The church is an expression of God’s grace in the life of the believer because, through it, he does not leave us alone.

“He gives us more than a weekly event to attend; he gives us a family.”

Ian Harber

“Hospitality is how we welcome those both near and far from God to experience a foretaste of God’s feast in the new creation.

“Meals bring people together in ways that few other things can.

“In an age of atomized individualism and online outrage, it’s difficult to be invited over to someone’s home, eat the meal they have prepared for you,

“experience their gracious character, and walk away thinking they hate you because of your differences.”

Ian Harber

What does this mean for us?

1. Jesus identifies with his people.
2. Jesus's followers are characterized by welcoming.
3. Jesus's mission is a **team sport**.



“But David said, ‘You shall not do so, my brothers, with what the Lord has given us. He has preserved us and given into our hand the band that came against us.’

“Who would listen to you in this matter?
For as his share is who goes down into the
battle, so shall his share be who stays by
the baggage. They shall share alike.”

1 Samuel 30:23-24

“But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

“If one member suffers, all suffer together;
if one member is honored, all rejoice
together.”

1 Corinthians 12:24b-26

“And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.”

Acts 6:7

“Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church.

“You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles.

“Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.”

3 John 5-8

“They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, ‘You have gone too far!’

“For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?”

Numbers 16:3

“Therefore it is against the LORD that you and all your company have gathered together. What is Aaron that you grumble against him?”

Numbers 16:11

“And the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation.”

Numbers 16:19b

“But the sons of Korah did not die.”

Numbers 26:11

“For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the
house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.”

Psalm 84:10

“For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does he withhold
from those who walk uprightly.”

Psalm 84:11