

**Sermon Summary**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> After Pentecost**  
**26<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

- Some translations are not helpful. The NRSV's "in the name of a prophet" [Matthew 10:41] would be much more easily understood if translated as "because he (or she) is a prophet".
- These little verses challenge an assumption made often in today's church: that everyone is called to be a missionary, that is, active in mission.
- These verses present a different picture.
- Certainly they suggest that some have an active missionary task, of prophecy, of works and so on.
- But they also suggest that others have a responsibility, not to do that same work, but to support and enable those directed to specific ministries.
- These actions are, the verses remind us, every bit as important as the work done by the principal actors.
- Describing this as a "cup of water" is also significant.
- Water is necessary for life, but it need not be an expensive or complex gift.
- What is needed is support that allows what is necessary to be done.
- This picture puts us in mind of the Body imagery used by St Paul in 1 Corinthians.
- There are necessary but not glitzy or exciting roles in supporting mission.
- This view of mission and church means that instead, as preachers so often do, a congregation being taken to task for not doing something, we can pause to give thanks for all the ways in which mission is supported in this parish: in parish outreach and activities, in diocesan life, in support for the mission of the church locally and globally.
- But, of course, such praise must never be allowed to become complacency.

26/06/2011