

Playing Games with God

Actual Jesus (Gospel of Matthew) – Part 114

Matthew 11:16-19

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² But when John heard in prison the works of the Christ, he sent a question.....

...⁷ And, as these *men* were going, Jesus began to say to the crowds concerning John, “What did you come out into the desert to observe? A reed being shaken by the wind?

⁸ “But *instead*, what did you come out to see? A man dressed in soft *garments*? Look: those bearing the soft *garments* are in the palaces of kings!

⁹ “But *instead*, what did you come out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you — and one exceeding a prophet!

¹⁰ “This is he concerning whom it has been written, ‘Look! I am sending My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.’

¹¹ “Amen, I say to you, one has not risen among those born of women greater than John the Immerser! Yet he who is smaller in the kingdom of the heavens is greater than he!

¹² “But from the days of John the Immerser until just

(Matthew 11:2a, 7-19)

now the kingdom of the heavens suffers violence, and violent ones want to seize it.

¹³ “For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John.

¹⁴ “And if you are willing to accept *it*, he himself is Elijah, who was going to come.

¹⁵ “He who has ears, let him hear!

¹⁶ “But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the public squares who, calling to the others,

¹⁷ “say, ‘We played the flute for you, and yet you did not dance! We sang a dirge,¹ and yet you did not beat *your breast*!’

¹⁸ “For John came, neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon!’

¹⁹ “The Son of Man came, eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look! A man *who is* a glutton and a wine-guzzler,² a friend of tax-collectors and of sinners!’ And yet wisdom is declared righteous by her works.”

Pastor Phillips’ ad hoc translation)

HEARING THE WORD

Introduction:

I. The Children of _____ Generation

A. The Picture (vv. 16-17)

1. What is it?
2. What sparked it?
3. Who is who in it?

B. The Application (vv. 18-19)

1. The two ministries
2. The grand inconsistency

¹ Or *mourning*.

² Literally *wine-drinker*, excess implied.

3. The two upshots:
 - a. Who “has ears to hear” (v. 15)?

 - b. Who _____ whom?

C. The Lessons

II. The Children of _____ Generation

A. Many _____

B. One _____ From God

C. One _____ To Us

D. Two Challenges For Us

1. Reaching out to the _____
 - a. The issue

 - b. The solution:

2. Serving professedly Christian _____

DOING THE WORD