



A GENERATION OF JUDGMENT

Matthew 11:16-24

A Lose-Lose Generation

➤ ***This Generation?***

- “you all who are currently living” or “people who respond like you?”
- Answer: Yes

➤ **Shenanigans in the Marketplace—An Illustration**

- Who’s Talking to Who?
 - Dance: Wedding Play
 - Mourn: Funeral Play

➤ **John and His Message**

- Wrath is Coming! – The “Dirge Singer”
- Ascetic Lifestyle
- Conclusion: John is demon-possessed.

A Lose-Lose Generation Cont...

➤ Jesus and His Message

- The Messianic Kingdom is Here! – The “Flute Player”
- Normal Lifestyle
- Conclusion: Jesus is a glutton, drunk and morally questionable because of his associations

➤ The Justification of Wisdom? Cf. Lk. 7:35

➤ John and Jesus?

- “God’s wisdom has been justified by the lifestyles of John and Jesus”

➤ Those who accept John and Jesus?

- “Those who are moved toward obedience by the life and message of John and Jesus demonstrate the wisdom of both.”

➤ Good fruit ultimately justifies that one is walking in wisdom?

- “Consistent good works and spiritual fruitfulness testify against accusations and misunderstandings.”

Rebuking Cities, Promising Judgment

- **“Mighty Works” in Chorazin and Bethsaida**
 - The counterfactual repentance of Tyre and Sidon
 - A more severe judgment
- **“Mighty Works” in Capernaum**
 - Exalted to Heaven? (Isa. 14:13-15)
 - Hades: A much different reality
 - The counterfactual repentance of Sodom
 - A more severe judgment

SO...

➤ **A Theology of Judgment**

- God does not owe everyone equal revelation to hold them accountable (cf. Rom. 2:12-16)
- Punishment in final judgment considers opportunity (cf. Matt. 12:41; 23:13)
- Though all of them are awful, there are different levels of severity in eternal judgment (cf. Lk. 12:47-48)

➤ **A Lesson in Evaluative Humility**

- We evaluate people and circumstances based on:
 - What we see and believe to be true about them
 - What we expect to happen or the way we believe things should be
 - Our own background experiences
- We often fail to:
 - Acknowledge that we often don't have full enough perspective to make justified evaluations
 - Realize that we tend to fill in knowledge gaps uncharitably
 - Come asking genuine questions and prefer to speculate from afar

➤ **A Warning Against Indifference**

- Everyone "Responds" to the Gospel