

Luke 7 (29~35)

Here in this passage, Luke mentions that it was the repentant sinners, who “*justified God*”, by being baptized with the baptism of John. And what was “*that baptism?*” Right, the “*Baptism of Repentance.*” In other words, it was those who came to God in repentance, that testified what the scripture was all about! That’s what he means when he says they “*justified God.*” That does not mean that God’s word must be approved or justified by men...but rather men bear witness to the truth of God’s word, by walking in repentance, by turning from this world, this life, to follow Jesus Christ...

Jesus Christ is Lord... He is the lord of heaven and earth, and lord over all men. The *greatest witness* to that truth, will not come *from the mouths of preachers*, **but** *from the lives of His followers!* It is the day-day lives, of humble, repentant sinners, who walk in submission to Jesus Christ as Lord...that bears the greatest witness to the truth of God’s word!

This passage hinges on the statements made in verses 29~30...²⁹*And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.* ³⁰*But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.*

Both John and Jesus had come, just as it was written of them, but even so, the religious leaders rejected both of them...the question was, WHY? Here Jesus answers that question, and He does so by making it clear it wasn’t the reason THEY gave! He describes here what the religious leaders thought of John and Jesus, and *the reasons they gave for rejecting them.* When you consider what they were saying about them, it’s some pretty bad stuff. His intent here is to discount what they are saying, and expose the real reason they reject Him.

He begins by contemplating as to what He can compare them to, in order to get his point across...

³¹*And the Lord said, Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? and to what are they like?*
³²*They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept.*

Jesus says... “The **MEN** of this generation, *are acting* like a bunch of “**Little CHILDREN**” who didn’t get their way...”

Jesus describes them, as being like a bunch of kids *playing games* in the market place... In that day, the parents would bring goods to market, to sell, and while there the kids would get together and play, make believe games.

I remember growing up, how we’d go visit other family... Something we always looked forward to, because we’d get to play with other kids. The adults would always want to just sit around and talk, and do nothing...right? But us kids, it didn’t take just a second, and we were outside playing. We’d gather together and start coming up with ideas of some games we could play. We’d sometimes pretend we were secret agents, or cowboys and Indians, or army or whatever. And we’d play hard the whole time we were there. Never ready to leave, right, mom and dad would holler at us to come on, and we’d always complain. (*I’ve traded places now, and now I’m the mean one who hollers at them to come on...*) But I remember well, that there were many times, that when we were trying to come up with something to play, that someone would mention something, that inevitably someone didn’t like, and didn’t want to do it. Usually they’d get mad and sit out and pout... At times there’d be squabbles, right? “*I don’t want to play that...*” “*Fine then, I’m not going to be your friend!*” **Yaw remember those days?**

Well, that’s how Jesus describes his generation... The games he’s speaking of here was known as “*wedding and funeral.*” Weddings and Funerals were the two biggest events of the day... People came

from everywhere on these two occasions. A typical wedding celebration lasted about a week, and a funeral, somewhere around 30 days of mourning. They would play “Wedding,” by pretending to play music on a flute, and the children would all dance, like the adults did at weddings. Then they would play funeral, playing morning music, and the kids would wail and lament like mourners did at a funeral. Jesus likens them as acting like a bunch of children who got mad at the other kids who wouldn’t dance when they played the flute! And they got mad at the other kids who wouldn’t lament when they played a funeral song. As silly as that sounds, and childish, that’s exactly how the “*Religious Leaders*” were acting! They had rejected and mistreated both John and Jesus, simply because *they didn’t adhere to their same old song & dance*. Both John and Jesus came walking in righteousness, and because they refused to conform to the superficial, hypocrisy of the Pharisees, they rejected them!

(Vs 33~34) Jesus explains what He means...³³ *For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil.* ³⁴ *The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!*

John didn’t conform to their ways, so they rejected him! Jesus didn’t conform to their ways, so they rejected him as well! They were acting like children, playing in the marketplace, which called on John and Jesus to do what they wanted, and when they refused, they got mad and didn’t want anything to do with them. Notice the vivid contrast that Jesus presents between Himself and John...

³³ *For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil.*

³⁴ *The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!*

It is a contrast of “*Both ends of the spectrum*”... John was so far “*Right*,” that he had nothing to do with the world, in that he separated himself from all it’s comforts, all it’s luxuries, all it’s pleasures. While on the opposite end of the spectrum, Jesus participated in the various activities, even eating with some of those *who basked themselves in the things of this world*. That is both ends of the spectrum, with the obvious point being, that *there was no pleasing these men!*

John came *neither eating or drinking...but they condemned him!*

Jesus came *both eating and drinking...and yet, they condemned him as well!*

Just to make sure we don’t misunderstand, why there was such a difference between the two... John was a symbol of “*Repentance*”... While Jesus was a symbol of “*Love*.” John’s was a picture of separation from this world, and turning from self-centeredness, and self-indulgence. While Jesus pictured intermingling with the world, loving the world (People.) It is the combination of those two, that form the gospel! The gospel is a call for men to REPENT...to turn from this world, and SELF, to walk in Love, reaching out to those who are still in the world...

Notice what they were saying about the two men... Notice what they said about John, “*and ye say, He hath a devil.*” I can just hear them... “*That John is CRAZY...I’m telling ya...*” “*There’s something wrong with Him, that man ain’t right!*” “*Whatever’s inside that man, it sure ain’t of God, look at him, look what he’s wearing and at what he eats!*” “*He’s nuts...I’m telling ya!*”

What did Jesus say about John? ²⁸ *I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist...*

Notice what they were saying about Jesus... “*ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!*”

- “*This man is a pig...he eats everything in sight!*” “*This man eats so much, it’s sinful!*”
- “*And not only that, he’s a drunk!*” “*He’s a wine-o*” (A winebibber refers to a drunk)
- “*And look who he hangs out with...the scum of the earth!*” “*Just look at the crowd he hangs with!*”

Were any of these allegations they were making about John or Jesus true?

You have to admit, John was “*different...*” And Jesus, he didn’t fast like they did, (*that’s where they labeled Him a glutton, the opposite of fasting*) and he did drink the occasional glass of wine, and it was true, he did hang out with pretty unseemly characters...

Who was right? Were these men right, of their assessment of *John having a devil*, and *Jesus, being a glutton, a drunkard and having some pretty questionable friends...* **Or**...was Jesus right in His assessment of them as being *like little children*, who couldn’t be satisfied?

Who was right? Well, the answer to that is not as simple as to say, “*Well Jesus was.*” By that I mean, just because we say something is right, doesn’t mean it is. I’m sure that if you asked this question in Jesus day, “*Who was right...the Pharisees assessment of John & Jesus...or...Jesus’ assessment of them,*” I’m sure you would have had several to step up to testify on behalf of both. I’m sure many of the day would have agreed with the Pharisees, which we know they did, (for He came unto His own, but His own received Him not!) There were many who felt that way! That’s where I love how Jesus answers the question as to who is right...

(Vs 35) ³⁵ *But wisdom is justified of all her children...* Jesus answers, by quoting a proverb... Throughout the book of proverbs, “*Wisdom*” is personified in that of a “*Woman*.” You will see wisdom often referred to as “*She*” or “*Her*”... The proverb pictures a woman giving birth to children, with the point being, you can learn a lot about a mother, by looking at her children. (Now that’s not always the case, some good kids get mixed up with the wrong crowd)...but in general, it is true. Here Jesus declares you will know who is right, you will know who walks in wisdom, by what is produced through them. In other words, Jesus was saying, we will know who is right, by the lives of their followers!

Actions justify wisdom... A “*Wise man*” lays a foundation o before building a house, while the fool does not, right? The one man is declared wise, by his laying the foundation, while the other is declared a fool by not laying a foundation. Therefore, we can conclude, that it is the actions that confirm wisdom. Thus it would be the lives of the people, who would determine who was right! It is a call to compare *the followers of the Pharisees*, and *the followers of John and Jesus*, to see who was right and who was wrong.

In short, the harlots, the thieves, the publicans, and such...by walking in repentance, would expose the hypocrisy of the disciples of the Pharisees! True, Jesus’ followers consisted of some pretty rough characters, adulterers’, thieves, harlots, publicans, and so on, and though they be very few in number, but their changed lives, their humility, their meekness, their mourning over sin, their genuine concern over others in sin, their faithful, loving service to Christ and the Father would expose the hypocrisy and half-heartedness of the Pharisees and their followers!

If you were to take a close examination of the Pharisees and their followers, you’d find that there was no genuine love for God, and His kingdom, and His will and His work... Though they attended synagogue every week, and professed to love God, a close look at their day to day lives would reveal a life of self-centeredness, a life of self-indulgence, a life lived unto this world and the things of this world... Theirs would be that of a superficial conformance...while Jesus’ disciples would reflect a deep, loving commitment to the Lord and His will and ways.

The lives of the followers would tell the story... ³⁵ *But wisdom is justified of all her children...*