

“Whereunto Shall I Liken this Generation?”

Luke 7:24-35

Jesus was very sarcastic at times. He sarcastically called the Pharisees **“blind leading the blind”** (Mt. 15:14), and **white washed sepulchers** (Mt. 23:27). He also likened them to **straining at gnats and swallowing camels** (Mt. 23:24).

In our text, Jesus employs a sarcastic scenario to illustrate how the generation of Pharisees and lawyers rejected *“the counsel of God against themselves”* (v. 30).

I T PICTURE (vs. 31-32). Jesus gives a “picture” of what the generation of the Pharisees and lawyers are like.

- A. The **participants**. A picture of children (probably teenagers) who sit (loitering) in the shopping place (mall).
- They sit bored. How easily children become bored. Some children get bored if they are unstimulated for 5 minutes, or less!
- B. The **playing**. So, with nothing better to do they pretend playing at marriages and funerals. At a marriage they would pipe happily for people to dance, at a funeral they would play something sorrowful and people would weep.
- They call to one another, “We have piped unto you, and you would not dance.” They soon get bored with that, so they play funeral—“We mourned to you, and you won’t not cry.” But they soon get bored with both! What a picture of this generation!

It would be like watching a funny movie and no one laughs. You put on a tear-jerker type of movie, and they still remain unmoved. They won’t laugh and won’t weep. Nothing pleases them.

- C. The **parallel**. The Pharisees and lawyers were like that. They would play a lively song, but God wouldn’t dance. They would play a sad song to God but He wouldn’t weep. Likewise, when

God plays music that is lively and joyous, *to Him*, they sit bored and indifferent. “Ho Hum!”

- This is world’s opinion of the things of God. They don’t care!

II T **PREACHERS** (vs. 33-34). Jesus’ interpretation of the picture.

➤ Jesus associates the ministries of John and His own to this picture—John and Jesus were diverse in character. John came one way and Jesus came another way— but they were both rejected.

- John came living a life of self-denial and warning of judgment. The world rejected his message saying he had a devil.
- Jesus came living like common people and mingled with publicans and sinners. The world rejected Him also, calling Him excessive and a drunkard!

➤ Characteristics of “*this generation*” toward John and Jesus:

A. Lack of **response**. They rejected both John and Jesus.

- There was no pleasing “*this generation*.”

They wanted what they did not have and, what they were given, they did not want—They were given John the Baptist, the greatest prophet ever born, but they called him demonic. They were given Jesus, “*the Son of man*,” and called Him a glutton and drunk.

B. Lack of **respect**—v. 33. Don’t expect “*this generation*” to respect you if you stand for God and warn of God’s judgment.

C. Lack of **reverence**—v. 34. “*This generation*” still thinks Jesus was just another sinner like themselves.

Some won’t accept God’s message no matter how it is delivered or who delivers it. They don’t like one preacher because he is meek and quiet. Then they don’t like the preacher who is loud and dynamic. No matter who the preacher is (vociferous or calm / fiery or soft-spoken), they remain still and unmoved.

III T **POINT** (v. 35).

- The point is “*this generation*” and God are “out-of-tune” with each other. God doesn’t think what the world sings about is worth His time. And the world is unresponsive to the music of God.
- God doesn’t weep over the same things this world cries about. And the world does not mourn over the things that grieve God. [NOTE: God doesn’t care who wins the World Series or Super Bowl!]
 - A. Wisdom’s **CHOICE**. Wisdom would choose one or the other—John or Jesus. The rejection of both showed that generation didn’t want the truth regardless of who spoke it. The issue was not the personality of preacher, but truth is the issue!
 - B. Wisdom’s **CHILDREN**. “*Wisdom is justified of all her children.*”
 1. Comparing v. 29 with v. 35, shows God is personified as wisdom. God was justified (shown as true) as people accepted God’s message, whether preached by John or Jesus.
 2. Wisdom has children (i.e. the children that wisdom produces). Wisdom’s children will ultimately justify or confirm God is right and the world’s wisdom is wrong.
 3. Are you one of wisdom’s children? It will show by your decision to either accept or reject “*the counsel of God.*”

SUMMATION: The generation today isn’t much different from the generation of Christ’s day. What concerns God is of no concern to today’s generation.

The Bible tells us what God **hates**. Do you hate those things? Do you even know what God hates???

The Bible tells us what God **loves**. Do you love those things?

The Bible tells us what **grieves** God. Do you grieve over those things?

We must get in tune with God’s heart... God’s loves... God’s hate. We must determine to reject what God hates and embrace what God loves. Romans 12:15—Weep with God when He weeps—Rejoice with God when He rejoices.

Jesus asks, “*Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? They are like unto children... SITTING in the marketplace.*” Is He talking about you?

- Are you bored— Unsatisfied with the things of God (Bible, Prayer, church)
- Unresponsive— What’s it going to take to get a “rise” out of you?
- Don’t blame the piping (music). Get in tune with God’s music.