



*The unfolding of your words gives light.*

## To Seek and to Save

### *An Exposition of the Gospel of Luke*

<sup>31</sup>“To what then shall I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like<sup>a</sup>? <sup>32</sup>They are like children who sit in the market place and call to one another, and they say, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep<sup>b</sup>.’ <sup>33</sup>For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon<sup>c</sup>!’ <sup>34</sup>The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners<sup>d</sup>!’ <sup>35</sup>Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children<sup>e</sup>.<sup>f</sup>”

<sup>a</sup> 7:31 **To what then shall I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like?** You cannot isolate this statement from the previous, where Luke said the leaders, “rejected God’s purpose for themselves.” The Lord was apparently responding to those who were disappointed by His performance and John’s. Nothing could please them.

<sup>b</sup> 7:32 **They are like children who sit in the market place and call to one another, and they say, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’** This simile pokes fun at those who are like selfish children who insist on having games played their way or they will quit. Jesus and John were no fun for the religious leaders because they refused to play their game of religious externalism or accept the authority of their traditions.

<sup>c</sup> 7:33 **John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon!’** The specific trouble these “children” had was that John and Jesus were not the kind of men they thought they should be. So they resorted to name-calling. Jesus was also charged with being a Samaritan and having a demon (John 8:48).

<sup>d</sup> 7:34 **The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’** Jesus was “eating and drinking”—that is—He did not openly fast twice in the week like those who took pride in appearance. Calvin says this means Jesus simply lived like most people lived. He was considered worldly by the fundamentalists among the Jews.

<sup>e</sup> 7:35 **Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children.** This phrase has been translated a number of ways, but this one is good. Wisdom, the kind that brings people to salvation (2 Timothy 3:14-15), produces something in her offspring that shows her for what she is. We have already been talking about children. Jesus is contrasting the children of “this generation” with wisdom’s children. The “children” of that day made themselves and their prejudices the standard by which prophets should be judged. The children of wisdom embraced both Jesus and John because they spoke the truth, though through different personalities and methods.

<sup>f</sup> 7:31-35 We learn here that methods do not change wicked hearts. John and Jesus were both confrontational with truth, but John lived more of an austere, isolated life and Jesus lived more among the crowds. Neither had an effective ministry by worldly standards because at the end of about three years each had only a handful of followers.

Here is how you avoid being worthy of this kind of rebuke:

1. Seek pleasure in knowing that God’s way of revealing Himself is always fresh. Most people did not feel good about the way John and Jesus carried on their ministries. This means that the work of God transcends personalities of church leaders, church music styles, methods of outreach and
2. Give up your preconceived ideas about the way you think God should behave toward you. God may violate your preferences when He does His work. Refuse the temptation to judge Him.
3. Fight the urge to try to please everyone as you serve. Some people will never be pleased whether your message is confrontational or relational because their hearts are not right with God.

The Gospel of Luke  
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