



"TOO STRICT"

"HE HAS A DEMON"

"TOO SOCIABLE"

"A GLUTTON"

"A FRIEND OF SINNERS"

WHEN **NOTHING** IS GOOD ENOUGH

— LUKE 7:30-35 —

PASTOR MIKE HOLLOWAY



WALKING ON WATER
BIBLE CHURCH

BIBLICAL TRUTH | REAL PEOPLE | A GREATER PURPOSE

Luke 7:30 - 35

30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

31 And the Lord said, “To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like?

32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: ‘We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not weep.’

Luke 7:30 - 35

33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.'

34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'

35 But wisdom is justified by all her children."

The Context: Luke 7:30

“But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.”

Verse 30 identifies the heart problem before Jesus illustrates it in verses 31–35.

Their criticism of John and Jesus flowed from a prior refusal to submit to God.

John's Baptism Was a Call to Repentance

John's baptism was not merely a religious ceremony.

It publicly acknowledged: "I need to repent. I am a sinner. I must prepare for God's Messiah."

The religious leaders could see everyone else's need for repentance—but resisted acknowledging their own.

The Danger of Religious Resistance

You can be religious and still resist God.

You can know Scripture and remain unresponsive to Scripture.

You can defend religious tradition while rejecting what God is presently requiring.

The refusal of John's baptism exposed a deeper refusal of repentance.

A Critical Distinction

Luke is not teaching that the physical act of John's baptism automatically saved anyone.

Their refusal to be baptized manifested rejection of God's summons to repentance.

Rejecting the messenger became a way of rejecting the message.

How Rejection Becomes Criticism

Once people reject God's will, they often begin looking for reasons to justify their rejection.

They rejected John—and explained why John was unacceptable.

They rejected Jesus—and explained why Jesus was unacceptable.

Their criticisms were not the real cause; they became excuses for an unresponsive heart.

AN UNRESPONSIVE GENERATION

Luke 7:31–32

They wouldn't dance. They wouldn't mourn.
Nothing moved them.

The Children in the Marketplace

Jesus compares His generation to children who refuse to respond to either game.

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance.”

“We mourned to you, and you did not weep.”

Celebration did not move them. Mourning did not move them.

John Brought the Funeral

John's ministry was solemn: REPENT!

“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

“The axe is laid to the root of the trees.”

John called people to mourn over sin and prepare for Messiah—but they would not mourn.

Jesus Brought the Celebration

Jesus proclaimed that the Kingdom of God had drawn near.

He healed the sick, raised the dead, forgave sinners, and announced good news to the poor.

John called them to mourn over sin.

Jesus gave them reason to rejoice in salvation—but they would not rejoice.

What Will It Take to Move You?

There is a dangerous condition where the truth of God no longer produces a response.

Correction—nothing.

Mercy—nothing.

Conviction—nothing.

The cross—nothing.

Be careful when you continually require God to change the message before you will respond.

Application: Examine the Hearer

Sometimes concerns about a preacher, church, or teaching style are legitimate. There are false churches all around.

But sometimes we blame the music because we do not want to dance.

Ask: “Is something wrong with what I’m hearing—or have I become unresponsive to God?”

SERMON MOVEMENT 2

THEY CRITICIZED JOHN'S CONVICTION

Luke 7:33

John's separation was too extreme for them.

John Lived Differently

John lived in the wilderness and embraced an austere life.

His lifestyle reinforced his message of repentance and preparation.

He was not trying to fit into the culture; he was calling the culture to repentance.

Their response: “He has a demon.”

When Conviction Makes Us Uncomfortable

They could not receive John's conviction, so they demonized it.

His commitment became "extremism."

His separation became "fanaticism."

His devotion became evidence, in their minds, that something was wrong with him.

Biblical Balance

Not every extreme behavior is godliness.

We do not measure truth by how strict someone appears.

We measure truth by Scripture.

But we must not dismiss biblical conviction simply because it makes us uncomfortable.

Preaching Principle

WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH THE
CONVICTION, ATTACK THE PERSON BRINGING IT.

John's lifestyle was not the real issue.

The next verse proves it: God sent someone completely
different—and they rejected Him too.

SERMON MOVEMENT 3

THEY CRITICIZED JESUS' COMPASSION

Luke 7:34

“A friend of tax collectors and sinners.”

The Opposite Messenger—Same Rejection

John separated himself—they complained.

Jesus engaged people—they complained.

John would not eat like everyone else: “Something is wrong with him.”

Jesus ate with people: “Something is wrong with Him.”

Jesus: Friend of Sinners

Jesus came close to sinners without compromising with sinners.

He could sit at their table without adopting their values.

He could love them without affirming their sin.

He could enter their world without allowing their world to define Him.

Biblical Compassion

Biblical holiness does not require isolation from sinners.

Biblical compassion does not require affirmation of sin.

Jesus demonstrates both perfectly:

- Truth without compromise.
- Compassion without affirmation.

Faithful Ministry Cannot Chase Every Preference

People may want a church that is strong—but never confrontational.

Biblical—but never offensive.

Holy—but never restrictive.

Loving—but never corrective.

Welcoming—but never demanding repentance.

SERMON MOVEMENT 4

GOD'S WISDOM WILL BE VINDICATED

Luke 7:35 - But wisdom is justified by all her children.”

Critics don't get the final word. Fruit does.

“Wisdom Is Justified by Her Children”

God’s wisdom does not require the critics’ approval in order to be wisdom.

The fruit of God’s work ultimately demonstrates the wisdom of God’s way.

John’s ministry produced repentance.

Jesus’ ministry produced transformed lives.

Look at the Fruit

Tax collectors were repenting.

Sinners were believing.

Broken people were being restored.

God's wisdom was producing children who demonstrated that God's way was right.

Critics Don't Get the Final Word

Keep preaching.

Keep serving.

Keep loving.

Keep obeying.

Keep standing.

Let faithful, biblical fruit speak.

Fruit Is Not Mere Popularity

Jesus is not teaching that numerical success automatically proves God's approval.

False teaching can draw crowds.

Entertainment can draw crowds.

Compromise can draw crowds.

Biblical fruit is consistent with biblical truth.

Conclusion: What Will It Take?

God sent conviction through John—they rejected it.

God demonstrated compassion through Jesus—they rejected it.

God gave them mourning—they would not weep.

God gave them music—they would not dance.

Nothing was good enough.

The Questions We Must Ask

Am I responding to God?

When God's Word confronts me—will I repent?

When God's Word corrects me—will I change?

When God's grace reaches me—will I receive it?

When God's wisdom contradicts my preferences—
will I submit?

Final Warning

Don't become so committed to your preferences that you miss God's purpose.

Don't become so defensive about your position that you reject God's correction.

Don't become so critical of the messenger that you never hear the message.

Don't become so accustomed to truth that truth no longer moves you.

FINAL REFRAIN

John wasn't good enough.

Jesus wasn't good enough.

Conviction wasn't good enough.

Compassion wasn't good enough.

Mourning wasn't good enough.

Celebration wasn't good enough.

What's it going to take for us to do God's Will?