



**Title: The Misgivings About the King (part 2) – Israel Rejects Both John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus.**

**Text:** Matt. 11:16-24

16 But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows, 17 And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented. 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. 19 The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.

20 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: 21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. 23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

**Introduction:**

1. Last week we saw: that John sent two of his Baptist disciples to Jesus for clarification about his role as the Messiah (11:1-6). The Lord Jesus gave a short discourse concerning John (11:7-15) – The discourse about the Messenger.
2. Today we will see: The rejection of Israel towards John and Jesus (vv.16-19) and the Lord's rejection and future judgment of Israel (vv.20-24).

**I. Generational (Jewish) Rejection Likened to Fickle Children (vv.16-19)**

- A. Israel responded wrongly to both John and Jesus.
- B. Israel called on John to dance (to joy) and for Jesus to fast (to separate from sinners).
- C. Wisdom is justified of (or by) her children – believers prove that John nor Jesus were isolationists nor compromisers.

**II. Indifference to the Message of the King (vv.20-24)**

- A. The opposition to Christ – started with Herod the Great, then, the Scribes, and Pharisees, then the people, now it has developed into cities and groups of people.
- B. The Herald of the King, the King Himself, and the Apostles of the King called on Israel to repent (national repentance) BUT there was no national repentance.
- C. “then began” – indicates a change in tone and work of the Lord.
- D. “upbraid” – to denounce, rebuke, scold.
- E. “Woe” – divine prophetic pronouncement of judgment.
- F. The mighty works were completely finished and should have brought the cities to repentance (as it authenticated the Messiah). BUT it didn't, nor could it have produced repentance. The healing (physical) did not bring salvation (spiritual).
- G. Two fold divine judgment: 1.) Future eternal judgment (Great White Throne even for Sodom, as Sodom has yet to be judged). 2.) The Removal of the Kingdom offer from that generation of Jewish cities.

**Conclusion:**

1. The Lord Jesus' offer of spiritual salvation and the Kingdom hinges on repentance and faith in His words.
2. People want a Military/Physical deliverer BUT not a spiritual Messiah.