

## Friday, August 7, 2020 ▫ Read Luke 7:18–35

*Questions from the Scripture text: Whose disciples reported to him about Jesus (v18)? To Whom did John send two disciples (v19)? What did he send them to ask? What do the men do (v20)? And what does Jesus do (v21)? When? What answer does Jesus send back to John (v22–23)? To whom does Jesus begin speaking about whom in v24? What does He ask them? What else does He ask in v25? To whom is Jesus comparing him? What does He ask the third time (v26)? Which prophet does Jesus say that John is (v27)? How great a prophet does Jesus say that John is (v28)? But who is greater than he? Who justified God in v29? Why? Who rejected the will of God in v30? Why not? About whom does Jesus now ask in v31? What does he call them (v32)? What are they doing? What didn't John the Baptist do (v33)? And what did they say about him? Who did eat and drink (v34)? And what did they say about Him? Who will be justified by whom (v35)?*

One of the chief hallmarks of our Lord Jesus Christ is that He doesn't please this world. When John the Baptizer wants to know if Jesus is the Coming One (v19–21)—the One of Whom John himself had said that he was not worthy to untie His sandal—Jesus immediately showed the two John had sent many miracles (v21). Yes, Jesus is not of this world. But the climax of Jesus's actual message back was “the poor have the gospel preached to them” (v22). Not only Jesus power, but also His values, are not what we would expect from this world. He has a special care for “the least of these.”

Is Jesus what the world would expect? No. But it is our duty to modify our expectations and fall down in worship (v23)

Jesus underlines the same thing about John himself. The Baptizer wasn't the kind of wimpy (v24) man-pleaser like the wealthy of the world (v25). But he who was not impressive to the world was greater than all the other prophets (v26–28).

Again, when expectations collide, God's must prevail. John had preached a baptism of repentance, and the sinners who had received it (v29) praised God for the news that the one who enters the kingdom in the worthiness of Jesus (end of v28) has a worthiness even than John's! (Of course, those who wished not to repent at all, but to count themselves worthy without it, rejected Jesus's message about an out-of-this-world worthiness through faith in Christ, v30).

Finally, Jesus confronts those who have rejected both of them. On the one hand, John's message of the necessity of extreme repentance was more than they could bear, so they said, “He has a demon” (v33). But, neither could they bear Jesus's message of free grace for sinners and a life of liberty to enjoy the good things of God in a godly way; so they attacked Him for encouraging joyous feasting and drinking wine, calling Him a friend of tax collectors and sinners (v34, cf. 5:27–32).

But what is the wisdom of God? It is the wisdom that demands a complete and perfect righteousness in God's holiness, but, turning around in power and mercy, completely provides that perfect righteousness in Christ. And those who receive this gospel of grace praise the wisdom of God as perfect (v35)!

Whom do you know that is unimpressed with/rejecting the Lord or His true/biblical people?

Suggested songs: ARP2 “Why Do Gentile Nations Rage?” or TPH404 “The Church's One Foundation”