

Questions for Gospel Harmony #37

Matthew 11.16-24; Luke 7.31-35

1. What did Jesus mean by the phrase “this generation”? Explain the metaphor of the children playing in the market place. How did this describe the people about whom Jesus was speaking? (Matthew 11.16-17; Luke 7.31-32)

2. What does Jesus mean when He says that John the Baptist came “neither eating bread nor drinking wine,” but that “the Son of Man” did both? Why did the people accuse John of having a demon? Do these words of Jesus imply that He used beverage alcohol? Why, or why not? Explain the statement: “Wisdom is justified by her children.” (Matthew 11.18-19; Luke 7.33-35)

3. Why did Jesus rebuke the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida? Why does Jesus mention the ancient cities of Tyre and Sidon? Explain the phrase: “And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades...” (Matthew 11.4-6; Luke 7.22-23)

Special Question: Jesus says that “it will be more tolerable in the day of judgment” for Tyre and Sidon than for Chorazin and Bethsaida. Does this mean that all men will not be judged by the same standard? Does this imply degrees of punishment? If not, what does it mean? Explain your answer.

Matthew 11.16-24; Luke 7.31-35

And the Lord said, "To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to their companions, and saying: 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; We mourned to you, and you did not lament [or] weep.' For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' 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!' But wisdom is justified by all her children." Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, 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. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."