

Expectations and Vindication

Matthew 11:16-19 ¹⁶ “But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places, who call out to the other *children*, ¹⁷ and say, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon!’ ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” (Luke 7:35- All her children)

In modern society, we pretend that we have transcended the rules of the playground, but we still divide along the old lines of Game-Makers and Outsiders.

Those with the loudest voices and the most influence still try to direct the rest of us, and they expect us to comply.

God has much to say to us. Many believers today cannot answer the call of God because His voice is choked by the noise of our culture.

We are pulled between calls to dance and calls to mourn as the game changes at the whims of the Game-makers.

We do not realize that we are Outsiders, called by God to dance to the song of our Father in Heaven!

Do you remember how It made us feel To be traded for a foolish lie?

I was the song that danced, You were the song that healed.

Neither song could satisfy.

Wisdom was fighting for her life,

And we, we were the children of our time.

-Jason Upton, *Dear John*

Like Jesus and John, the Church is an uprising of Outsiders. We are the children of our time!

Notice that religious and secular culture criticized Jesus and John, even though they practiced their faith very differently.

2 Timothy 2:4 ⁴ No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

Galatians 1:10 ¹⁰ For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

We cannot live for man’s expectations for one simple reason: God has expectations and no one can serve 2 masters!

We serve God with time, talent, and treasure, which cannot be spent twice. We must be living under a heavenly vision.

How do we know what the wise choice is? The answer is “all her children.” The fruit we bear is our vindication!

Like righteous children following Christ, the life of faith we have chosen will speak for us and silence our opponents.

Craig Christner healing story

Matthew 11:20-24 ²⁰ Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in *the* day of judgment than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven,

will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. ²⁴ Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in *the* day of judgment, than for you.”

Jesus is calling us to do the works of God and to leave the world around us accountable for what they have seen.

If we will repent and believe, we will be saved. If not, then the works we have seen will testify against us.