
WISDOM'S VINDICATION

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 11:1-19

Focus Scripture: Matthew 11:7-19

Key Verse: The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.
Matthew 11:19 (NRSV)

MATTHEW 11:7-19 (NRSV)

7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

8 What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.

9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

10 This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came;

14 and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.

15 Let anyone with ears listen!

16 But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

17 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, 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, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a

MATTHEW 11:7-19 (KJV)

7 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

8 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

9 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.

10 For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.

15 He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

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,

friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.

KEY TERMS

- **Wilderness** – Lack of population; bare; an untamed land.
- **Reed** – A tall, slender-leaved plant.
- **Soft robes** – Fine clothing
- **Prophet** – One who speaks forth by divine inspiration.
- **Messenger** – Person delegated to carry a message.
- **Amaze** – To remove from a standing (fixed) mindset.
- **Astonish** – Strike with panic or shock.
- **Anxiety** – Painful sorrow; uneasiness.
- **Obedient** – Under arrangement.



Here’s the truth, we all have a set of biases that exist within us.

event. What do you expect?

- c. A bishop, pastor, general officer, director, etc. is coming. What do you expect?

Now, if someone says to you, “I know things are changing, the present atmosphere is negatively affecting the lives of the working class. It costs to be healthy. It costs to stay alive, BUT there is a Savior who will come and turn it around!” What would you expect?

Here’s the truth, we all have a set of biases that exist within us. Whether we want to admit it or not, we attribute certain behaviors to certain people, and we exclude those whom we do not deem

INTRODUCTION

What Do You Expect?

When someone says:

- a. Children will be coming to visit. What do you expect?
- b. Young adults will be at your

“eligible” based on our biases. There are expectations we have for certain people in certain positions, and if someone does not fit that mold, and acts and reacts outside of the status quo, or does not conform to already established covert

rules and guidelines, we immediately resist and often meet them with rejection.

TELLING THE BIBLE STORY

This is what the author was portraying in Matthew 11. The people had been hearing for years that a savior was coming, and he would be the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. As the story has it, there may have been details added about the type of savior to expect based on the current context of who was king, and their past experiences of those who had previously taken over. It is not unlikely that the people imagined a Moses figure who would come and bring plagues on the land until Pharaoh conceded, or a David figure who would come in like a warrior and tear down the place, or a king who would walk around in fine clothing because, after all, that's what kings did.

That was not the case with John the Baptist or Jesus. They did not look like any of the expectations that people had. They were not from immediate royalty,

neither did they have the background people expected. They did not talk about the things they thought a savior and messenger should. And, Jesus and John certainly conducted themselves in really strange ways. What did the people do? They did what most people do: they crafted rumors and undermined John and Jesus' authority and their works. Because John and Jesus did not fit their

Because John and Jesus did not fit their mold or idea of what persons in their roles should look like and do, they dismissed them. However, Jesus let none of that affect him.

mold or idea of what persons in their roles should look like and do, they dismissed them. However, Jesus let none of that affect him. In fact, Jesus responded with a simple line "yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds" (v.19). In others words, "May the works I've done (and am going to do) speak for me."

SANKOFA

In 1996, Kirk Franklin and the Family released their hit single, "Whatcha Lookin 4." In the song, they talked about the ways Jesus showed up for them when they were at their lowest moments. Using the lyrics of the song, list the ways Jesus proved Jesus was the one they were

looking for.

Lyrics:

I was searchin'

For someone to love me right

Hear me when I cry

Keep me late at night

Jesus came even in my misery

Wiped the tears from my eyes

This is what he said

Chorus: Whatcha lookin' 4

I'm the One you're lookin' 4

Whatcha searchin' 4

You don't have to search no more

Give you peace and joy

Fill your life with happiness

Don't you look no more

'Cause I'm the One you're lookin' 4

L-O-V-E love never meant that much to me

'Til I saw your face

I felt your amazing grace

But in the midnight hour

When I held my pillow tight

He wiped the tears so I could see

This is what he said

Chorus

I never knew love could be so sweet

The joy you give to me

Peace and harmony

I love you so

More than you'll ever know

What is this that I found that

Never never lets me down

Chorus

Whatcha

What you want

I've got it

What you need, I'm the One you're lookin' 4

It's yours

I'm the One you're lookin' 4

CASE STUDY

2008 saw the release of some major blockbusters: *Iron Man*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *Kung Fu Panda*, and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, to name a few. But, among those hits was Columbia's production *Hancock* featuring Will Smith portraying an alcoholic, homeless man with an uncanny source of strength, invulnerability, and the ability to fly. The crime in Los Angeles is on the rise, and police officers really have their hands filled trying to control it. Every now and

then, Hancock inserts himself trying to help, but is often shunned and ridiculed by both the police and citizens as being reckless, careless, and a downright contemptible person.

Seeing the good in his gifts, a public relations specialist attempts to save Hancock's image in order to make him more palatable to the community. He convinces him to turn himself in, go to jail, and to attend therapy. Reluctantly, Hancock obliges and the crime in LA rises to an all-time high. Unable to do anything about it, the PR specialist suggests using Hancock, who has to use his newfound "wisdom" in order to handle the situation in a more calm and rational way, which he does. Hancock goes on to become the city's hero, making crime almost non-existent. He was the savior the people needed, but was initially rejected because of the packaging he was in.

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LIFE APPLICATION

The same way people in our text came to learn Jesus was the One for whom they were looking, Kirk Franklin and the Family eventually came to learn the same. How? It was by Jesus' actions. Verse 19 in the scripture reminds us that wisdom is vindicated by her actions. That means Jesus' behavior showed them that Jesus was who they had been searching, waiting, longing for. Actions spoke louder than words, expectations, and prejudices.

QUESTIONS

1. Looking back at the **Introduction**, what are some ways we can use those prejudices we reversed to encourage people to use their unique skills and abilities for a greater good?
2. What types of works have each of these groups done that indicate their ability to be a part of the solution?

CLOSING DEVOTION

Prayer: My God, let us not judge by

our own expectations and prejudices they've done speak for them. In Jesus' but use godly wisdom to see past and name. AMEN. through them. May the works she, he,

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

June 29 – July 5

Monday	Matthew 10:16-23 (Wise Counsel for Defending Your Faith)
Tuesday	Isaiah 35:3-10 (Wise Deeds of the Coming Messiah)
Wednesday	Luke 7:24-28 (John the Baptist, God's Messenger)
Thursday	Matthew 11:1-6 (The Messiah's Wise Deeds)
Friday	Matthew 11:20-24 (Woes on Unwise Cities)
Saturday	Matthew 11:25-30 (Wisdom's Invitation to Come and Rest)
Sunday	Matthew 11:7-19 (Wisdom Is Vindicated by Her Deeds)