

LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
SERMON OUTLINE
June 6th, 2021
Matthew 11:16-18

RECAP: Last week, we looked John the Baptist and his position in biblical history, as the most honored and revered of the OT prophets.

THESIS: God’s wisdom objectively shows the foolishness of man.

EXEGESIS: Matthew 11:16-18 (see also Luke 7:31-35)

- **“This generation.”** See **Matt. 12:38-42, Matt. 23:34-36.** Always either very condemning and negative, and also includes the Pharisees. We’ll see much of this as Matthew goes on.
- **“To what are they compared/similar to?”** This is very straightforward, and designed to be an analogy.
- **“They are like children in the marketplace calling to others.”** This is the literal translation here. The word here is “pais,” for “child/youngster,” and their call to *other* children.
- **History:** Marketplaces were often the center of town where business was transacted, and thus families often brought children to play and entertain themselves while this happened.
- **“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a lament, and you did not mourn.”** Children group A is out here calling out to children group B. This is not children calling to you, or the adults, or children calling out just in general. This is children calling out to other children.
 - *John the Baptist calls them to mourn.* John is the one who is calling them to take their sins and straying from God in rebellion seriously, and they write him off as demon-possessed.
 - *Jesus calls them to dance for joy.* In this fake analogy, Jesus is the one calling them to dance, to partake in the joy of the coming Kingdom. But again the Jews are unconvinced.
- **Straw-man Illogical Argument:** To deliberately exaggerate someone’s point or method in order to attack his/her character or argument.
- **“Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”** *Wisdom is identified through action.* This should make sense to us. Christ tells us that you identify wisdom through it’s *actions*. That is key.
 - Wisdom takes on an almost verb connotation, like Proverbs, wherein wise actions and wise choices demonstrate wisdom or don’t demonstrate it.

CONCLUSION:

- **We must take great care to avoid this kind of stubbornness in the face of truth.**
- **Wisdom will objectively triumph over foolish man, through action.**