

## What Is It with People?

Luke 7:31-35 Sunday AM, March 30, 2025

**Prelude – Scripture: Luke 7:24-35** (NASB95) When the messengers of John had left, He began to speak to the crowds about John, “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 25 “But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who are splendidly clothed and live in luxury are found in royal palaces! 26 “But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet. 27 “This is the one about whom it is written, ‘BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.’ 28 “I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” 29 When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they acknowledged God’s justice, having been baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God’s purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John. 31 “To what then shall I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like? 32 “They are like children who sit in the market place and call to one another, and they say, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’ 33 “For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon!’ 34 “The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ 35 “Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”

We’ve come through a dynamic Sermon on the Plain followed by two exhibitions of Jesus’ compassion and power over great sickness and death. Can you feel the tinge of adventure as you turn to follow Jesus believing that somehow, One who had such great power and compassion could help you live His impossible sermon. But right then, disciples came from John the Baptist, sent by him to ask, “**Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?**” John’s faithful following God’s mission for him led to truth-telling leading Herod to imprison him and the women acting as his wife to seek his life. From his cell in a far-off prison fortress, John felt pressure against what had been certain—am I truly in line with a holy God or have I been misguided/deceived? To be faithful to the end, he must make certain the foundations of his faith by running to God with his doubts. Jesus did not just tell him He was the Expected One, He told those sent to observe His works. He did this in the language of Scripture, quoting prophets long dead, saying to John, don’t just trust your feelings, experiences—trust my eternal Word and purposes and you will see power, purpose, and gospel truth showing My love and care in the face of what looks hopeless. John, you have a choice—**blesed are those who do not take offense at me**. Then Jesus turned to those listening and offers them the same choice—Who did you go to see when you went to John? He wasn’t someone who would tell you what you wanted to hear, but rather someone who tells it like it is. He wasn’t someone used to the world’s finest. No, you went to hear a prophet—spokesman from God. Then He widened their perspective further to show them the trustworthiness of His eternal word. 27 “**This is the one about whom it is written, ‘BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.’** God promised a redeemer. This is what you all need. Let your worries and fears drive you to trust God alone and you will not only be redeemed, but able to be even greater than John—28 “**I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.**” Some accepted His words while others rejected them. Church, join those who accept and worship God for His gracious gift to us of reconciliation. All Hail the King of Heaven.

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): All Hail the King of Heaven**

31 “To what then shall I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like? 32 “They are like children who sit in the market place and call to one another, and they say, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’ 33 “For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon!’ 34 “The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’

Something is very wrong—laughter/joy at the wrong time, mourning over the wrong things, all leading to misjudging both John the Baptist and Jesus. THIS should sober us all—God, keep me from deception. Open my eyes, my ears, so I can see/hear glimpses of your truth.

**\*Hymn #381: Open My Eyes, That I May See \*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: These Are They Scripture: Deuteronomy**

**32:1–18** (NASB95) “Give ear, O heavens, and let me speak; And let the earth hear the words of my mouth. 2 “Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As the droplets on the fresh grass And as the showers on the herb. 3 “For I proclaim the name of the LORD; Ascribe greatness to our God! 4 “The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He. 5 “They have acted corruptly toward Him, They are not His children, because of their defect; But are a perverse and crooked generation. 6 “Do you thus repay the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? Is not He your Father who has bought you? He has made you and established you. 7 “Remember the days of old, Consider the years of all generations. Ask your father, and he will inform you, Your elders, and they will tell you. 8 “When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, When He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the sons of Israel. 9 “For the LORD’S portion is His people; Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance. 10 “He found him in a desert land, And in the howling waste of a wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye. 11 “Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, That hovers over its young, He spread His wings and caught them, He carried them on His pinions. 12 “The LORD alone guided him, And there was no foreign god with him. 13 “He made him ride on the high places of the earth, And he ate the produce of the field; And He made him suck honey from the rock, And oil from the flinty rock, 14 Curds of cows, and milk of the flock, With fat of lambs, And rams, the breed of Bashan, and goats, With the finest of the wheat— And of the blood of grapes you drank wine. 15 “But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked— You are grown fat, thick, and sleek— Then he forsook God who made him, And scorned the Rock of his salvation. 16 “They made Him jealous with strange gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. 17 “They sacrificed to demons who were not God, To gods whom they have not known, New gods who came lately, Whom your fathers did not dread. 18 “You neglected the Rock who begot you, And forgot the God who gave you birth.

**Offering: \*Doxology:**

Our passage from Deuteronomy was the song of Moses ending the books of the Law. It begins with God’s greatness. 3 “**For I proclaim the name of the LORD; Ascribe greatness to our God!** 4 “**The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.** And why shouldn’t Israel praise God with Moses? God took them from a desert land, from a waste of a wilderness and cared for them as His own, providing them with undeserved goodness. This is the same care He promises those who come to Him through the work of Christ today. Church, praise the faithful love of our God.

**\*Hymn #52: O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

**You may be seated.** Yet the Song of Moses was not just full of praise. Israel spurned God’s grace, turning from Him, forgetting Him because they had needs only other gods could satisfy. With abominations they provoked Him to anger. Like our passage today, they were happy about the wrong things—they were angry/they mourned the wrong things. Our passage today ends with God’s simple correction, “Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children.” Be sobered as you listen today. It is so easy to accuse others of misjudging—ask God to show your mixed up judgments. But don’t ask only for right judgments, ask that you won’t be satisfied until your emotions are His emotions—your values, His values—no satisfaction BUT in God alone. Pray for God’s work as Pastor Jahn speaks.

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): Psalm 62 (My Soul Finds Rest)**

**Message: “What is it with People?” Luke 7:31-35 \*Hymn #296: We’ve a Story to Tell \*Prayer**