

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Matthew 11:16-19

**Do We Dance for Jesus,
or Does Jesus Dance for Us?**

by Eric Douma

April 14, 2024

**This Generation Rejects
God’s Prophets**

Matthew 11:16–17
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.**”

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Two Possible Interpretations

<p>This Generation</p> <p>Flute Players Dirge Singers</p> <p>John and Jesus</p> <p>Didn’t dance Didn’t mourn</p>	<p>John and Jesus</p> <p>Flute Player Dirge Singer</p> <p>This Generation</p> <p>Didn’t dance Didn’t mourn</p>
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This Generation Rejects John + Jesus

Matthew 11:18–19
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.

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Applications

1. We should understand “this generation” as a quality of people who reject God’s prophets, not a quantity of people living during a certain time.
2. We must “receive” God’s revelation whether or not it seems distasteful to us.
3. We must know that true righteousness far exceeds man-made rules of food, drink, or asceticism.

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Understanding “This Generation”

1. **Quantity:** People alive during a certain time period.
2. **Quality:** People characterized by lack of belief no matter when they lived.

Matthew 11:16
But to what shall I compare **this generation?** It is like children sitting in the market places, who call out to the other *children*...

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This Generation = Unbelievers

Matthew 12:39

But He answered and said to them, “An **evil and adulterous generation** craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet...”

Matthew 17:17

And Jesus answered and said, “**You unbelieving and perverted generation**, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me.”

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Will We Dance to Christ’s Tune?

Jeremiah 38:9

My lord the king, these men have acted wickedly in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet **whom they have cast into the cistern...**

John 6:65–66

And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that **no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.**” 66 **As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.**

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Righteousness Exceeds Man’s Rules

Mark 7:8-9

Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men. 9 He was also saying to them, “**You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.**”

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True Righteousness: Beyond Man’s Rules

Romans 14:16–17

Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; 17 **for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**

Matthew 5:20

For I say to you that **unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees**, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

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