

Sermon Outline

“Folly and Wisdom”

Matthew 11:16-19

I. Overview of the subsection – Matthew 11:1-30

A The redemptive deeds of Jesus convey the message vv. 1-6

B The wisdom of receiving the message vv. 7-15

A¹ The message-deeds of Jesus and John compared vv. 16-19

(Each element of the first chiasm leads with questions.)

A The punishment of those who unwisely reject Jesus’ work vv. 20-24

B The wisdom of God’s revelation through Jesus vv. 25-27

A¹ The rest given those who wisely accept Jesus’ work vv. 28-30

II. The question of Jesus v. 16a

What comparison can I possibly make regarding this generation of people?

Ref: a generation of perverse wickedness Mt 24:30, 34, 37-39; Gen 6:5-8

See Mt 12:39-41 (16:4); 12:42; 12:43-45; 17:17.

III. The comparison of John and Jesus vv. 16b-19a

The actions of children in the agora

Boys calling their fellows to dance at a wedding

Girls calling their fellows to mourn at a funeral

No matter what is offered them from God, this generation rejects.

cf. vv. 20-24 – rejection seals their condemnation.

The prophet offered them mourning for sin

Accused of demonism

The Son of Man offered them rejoicing of redemption

Called worthy of death (*cf.* Dt 21:20-21)

IV. The vindication of God’s messengers v. 19b (notice “works” in v. 20)

Wisdom is personified in Jesus and John *cf.* Prov 8, esp. 1-7

cf. I Enoch 42:2 “Wisdom went forth to make her dwelling among the children of men, and found no dwelling-place. Wisdom returned to her place, and took her seat among the angels.”

Consider God’s solution for the wicked generation of Noah’s time

Gen 6:8-13 – the corruption of men to be destroyed

Gen 8:15-22 – God gave Noah a new world to populate and a codified worship to honor the creator/redeemer. And God promised blessing.