

I. Jesus' Address to the Crowd

A. **Luke 7:24-27** When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: **"What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'**

1. What did you go out to see? Think about what captured you and about whether or not it was just a reed shaken in the wind.
2. Did you just go out to spectate or go out to the next "prophetic conference?"
3. He was more than a prophet He was the forerunner messenger.
 - a) **Mal 3:1-5** Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. ⁵"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness

against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

B. **Luke 7:28-35** **I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”**²⁹ (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰ but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.) ³¹ “To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, “‘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, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ ³⁵ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

1. “None is greater than John... but the least in the Kingdom.”
 - a) Greater in privilege and access.
2. “To what shall I compare the people of this generation?”
 - a) Deaf, dull, and unresponsive spirit
 - b) Offended heart
 - c) There will be times where the Lord will call His people to weep at a time that doesn’t make sense to the world and to rejoice at a time that doesn’t make sense.

(1) **Luke 19:41-44** “And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴² saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.” ⁴³ For the days will come upon

you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side ⁴⁴ and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

- d) John the Baptist was a **Burning and Shining Lamp** in a dark hour (John 5:35). It is rare and precious to find ones who are willing to agree with Jesus in whatever he is saying and doing! It's like finding a torch in the middle of a dark night!
- e) Wisdom will be vindicated by the fruit it produces.
 - (1) Matt 25:4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.**