

“For John didn’t spend his time eating and drinking, and you say, ‘He’s possessed by a demon.’ The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, ‘He’s a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!’ But wisdom is shown to be right by its results.” Matthew 11:18-19 NLT

lectio / Matthew 11:1-19

You say... what a couple of interesting words. I used the word, “interesting” because it’s a millennial word that is nonjudgmental, but sounds so affirming. Don’t get me wrong, it’s nice, but not committed. So goes with, “you say,” or “they say.” Who says? Oh, you’ll never pin that down. It’s just gossip floating from one person’s lips to another’s ears. No one owns it. It’s just out there, free to be - interesting. People talk. People take sides. If you stand in the middle and don’t commit you’ll go crazy trying to satisfy what both ears hear! John was too hot, Jesus too cold. John was judgmental, Jesus too friendly. They were cousins and both were secure in their calling. Jesus loved John, honored him and said so here, earlier in Matthew. John never spends time with people, “doing life.” Jesus spends too much time “doing life” with the wrong people. Ah, but Jesus wants to talk about something else - the Kingdom of God. What can be more important than being critical of BOTH God-sent, called and mission driven men? Certainly free-flying criticism or cynicism is far more effective, this is the best use of our time, energy and words - right? John wasn’t a zealot with a sword, he was zealous with his words. Jesus wasn’t a rebel with his speeches, he was radical with his behavior. Jesus cuts through the gossip of the day with these words, “wisdom is shown to be right by its results.” WISDOM is measured by looking back at the RESULTS. How could Jesus possibly promote a John method and his own Jesus method and honor both? Because BOTH are true by comparing the audience. John was NOT partying with the princes because they needed correction not collaboration. Jesus was NOT being a holy hermit, but spent his time with those who were broken because they needed grace not guilt! Can I love the fact that the Kingdom of God IS results driven? It’s just driven by ETERNAL things and eternal beings!

oratio

Dad,

Oh, aren’t we something? Does sin make us so polarizing or just planks in our eyes so big that we can’t see our own splinters? Somewhere in these stories I read frustration of us just not getting it. I see it because I’m slow. I see it because I’m selfish. I see it because I get to lead the “you say” and “they say” folks all the time. Oh God, we all need your grace. Help us, help me. Help us see, hear, learn and obey. Help me lead, give me wisdom that produces results!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root