

John's Demons and Jesus' Sinful Friends

Matthew 11:16-19

John's Demons and Jesus' Sinful Friends

- Matt. 11:16-19 - “But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions, 17 and saying: ‘We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not lament.’ 18 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, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ But wisdom is justified by her children.”
- Luke 7:29-30 - “And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.”

Reactions To The Words Of John

- Some saw John as a curiosity
 - Matt. 11:7-8 - “As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.”
 - 1Peter 4:4 - “In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.”

Reactions To The Words Of John

- Some considered John a prophet
 - Matt. 11:9-11, 14 - “But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. 10 For this is he of whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.’ 11 Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he... 14 And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.”

Reactions To The Words Of John

- Most rejected John and his word
 - Matt. 11:18 - “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’”
 - Luke 7:30 - “But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.”
 - John 5:35 - “He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.”

“John Has A Demon!”

- When the people did not like what John had to say, they attacked his person instead of his message.
- Argumentum ad hominem - “An argument that attempts to undermine an argument based on an irrelevant fact about the person making the argument, for example by attacking their character or motives.” (Wikipedia)
- “Also called ‘poisoning the well,’ meaning that if one can undermine the character of the person making the argument, then anything coming from the man and his argument is suspect.” (Dr. Bruce Waller)

Reactions To The Works Of Jesus

- John 10:37-39 - “If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him. 39 Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand.”
- Acts 2:22-23 - “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death”

Why They Rejected The Works And Words Of Jesus

- “A gluttonous man and a wine-bibber”
 - A charge made inaccurate by their emotionally charged opinions
 - “The Son of man came eating like other men. He was at the wedding feast of Cana (John 2:1-11); at Matthew's feast, (Matt. 9:10), etc. There was nothing distinct about his social habits. Like all the people, He drank the harmless wine of Palestine, either free from, or with a very slight percentage of, alcohol. Modern wines are very different.” (PNTC)

Why They Rejected The Works And Words Of Jesus

- It wouldn't matter if Jesus ate as the average person or ate locust and wild honey like John; they would have found something wrong with Him.
- You can please some of the people some of the time, but you can't please people determined to be discontent.

Why They Rejected The Works And Words Of Jesus

- “A friend of tax collectors and sinners”
 - An accurate charge that said nothing about His moral character, but spoke volumes about His nature and His purpose in this world

“A Friend Of Tax Collectors And Sinners”

- A real friend sacrifices
 - John 15:12-13 - “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.”
 - Rom. 5:6-8 - “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

“A Friend Of Tax Collectors And Sinners”

- A real friend loves always
 - Prov. 17:17 - “A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.”
 - Jer. 31:3 - “The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with loving-kindness I have drawn you.”

“A Friend Of Tax Collectors And Sinners”

- A real friend is steadfast
 - Prov. 18:24 - “A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”
 - Heb. 4:15-16 - “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

“A Friend Of Tax Collectors And Sinners”

- A real friend accepts the sinner without endorsing the sins.
 - Psalm 103:12 - “As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”
 - Luke 19:2-10

- Luke 19:2-10 - “Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.’ 6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. 7 But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, ‘He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.’ 8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.’ 9 And Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.’”

“A Friend Of Tax Collectors And Sinners”

- A real friend accepts the sinner without endorsing the sins.
 - God, Jesus, and humble Christians are able to distinguish between people and the sins they commit; they love and accept the people without accepting their sins; moral bigots do not make this distinction.

“A Friend Of Tax Collectors And Sinners”

- A real friend offers correction
 - Prov. 27:6 - “Faithful are the wounds of a friend,
But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”
 - Heb. 12:6-11

“A Friend Of Tax Collectors And Sinners”

- Heb. 12:6-11 - “For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.’ 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

“A Friend Of Tax Collectors And Sinners”

- A real friend forgives
 - Matt. 26:48-50 - “Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, ‘Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him.’ 49 Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, ‘Greetings, Rabbi!’ and kissed Him. 50 But Jesus said to him, ‘Friend, why have you come?’ Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.”

“A Friend Of Tax Collectors And Sinners”

- 1John 1:7 - 2:2 - “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

“A Friend Of Tax Collectors And Sinners”

- A real friend is open
 - John 15:15 - “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”
 - 1Peter 2:22 - “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”

“A Friend Of Tax Collectors And Sinners”

- Jesus is the sinner's Friend
 - But to whatever extent that is true in your life is up to you.
 - Mark 2:15-17 - “Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi's house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him. 16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners? 17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

“A Friend Of Tax Collectors And Sinners”

- The publicans and harlots were sinners, and they knew it; and therefore, they came to Jesus, the Friend of sinners, to be saved.
- The scribes and Pharisees were sinners, too, but they did not believe it and rejected friendship with Jesus; and in doing so, they cut themselves off from salvation.