**The Unsatisfied Generation**

Matthew 11:1-19

August 31, 2025

**Introduction**

 Various labels have been given to generations of the 20th / 21st century

 People born between …

 1883-1900 Th lost generation-time of social change, adulthood in WW1 shattered traditional valus

 1901-1927 The Greatest Generation [Tom Brokaw] resilience, shaped by great depression &WW2

 1928-1945 The Silent Generation – keep heads down and conform, respect for institutions

 1946-1964 Baby Boomer – grew up with economic prosperity, cultural upheaval

 1965-1980 Gen X – sandwiched btwn 2largr, independnc and resourcefulnss, less par. supervision

 1981-1996 Millennials – tech savy, socially conscious, adapted the internet

 1997-2012 Gen Z – grown up in a world saturated with tech, desire social impact,diverse

 2013-present Gen Alpha – too soon to say

 When I look at modern America and perhaps the world I can see the above, but I also see/hear…

 J.D. Rockefeller asked what does it take to make a rich man happy – one more $

 Major sports team threatens to move unless tax payers pay for new stadium, KC Royals...

 Friend in Navy, someone has to live in million dollar homes, might as well be me

 Supersize it at fast food restaurants

 Corporations bigger is better

 Generation of people not satisfied with what they have, where they are for example

The greatest unsatisfied generation was the generation of Jesus day.

 Today, Matthew 11:1-19 look at the greatest unsatisfied generation, perhaps find help for our gen.

**The Unsatisfied Generation**

**I. Jesus’ Answer Satisfies John’s Question 1-6**

 A. John’s question 1-3

 Jesus sent the 12 out on a training mission – chapter 10 1a

 Jesus then went out teaching and preaching 1b

 John in prison and *hears* about the works of Jesus 2a, arrested in 4:12

 Mt14:3, Josephus says John held in Machaerus, Herods prison in a mtn.

 J sends 2D’s 2ask JS: Are U th coming [expected]One or do we look 4anothr? 2b

 John suffers physically, lack of information, expectations – doubt arises

 Think of Joseph Gn39ff, Jeremiah 37:16 38:6, Jonah 2:1, Elijah 1Kn191-3

 B. Jesus’ answer 4-6

 Go and tell John the things you see and hear Is35:5-6 i.e. evidence

 Blind see, lame walk, lepers cleansed, deaf hear, dead raised, poor hear…

 JS began his ministry Lk4:18-19 citing from Is61:1-2a

 Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me - caused to stumble, fall in a trap

 John had hesitations based on his expectations 311,12 which differed fm JS

 John right just the timing not right

 Lesson

 We don’t like to think that blvrs can ever experience doubt, implies lack of faith

 Blvrs will go thru tough/hard X’s, tests of faith, sometimes fail 826 1431 168 1717

 Help is always go back to the Word of God Is40:8, Ps46:1, go to Jesus J6:68

 U must not fall into a trap and be ‘offended’ by things God does/allows

**II. Jesus Describes John As A Generational Prophet 7-14**

 A. Jesus addresses generational question about John 7a

 Concerning John – who is this man John

 B. John more than a prophet 7b-10

 Recall Mt 3:3 from Is40:3 cited about John at the beginning of his ministry

 What did you go out to see?

Reed shaken by the wind? NO you didn’t 7 – man of mighty conviction

Man in soft clothing? NO you didn’t 8 – camels hair, simple

A prophet 9a – YES all true believers recognized John as fm God

 A prophet and *more* than a prophet 9b

 John preached and called his nation to repentance look to Messiah 31-3

 John also fulfills Malachi’s prophecy of messenger before the Lord Mal3:1

 Malachi the *last* prophet before 400 silent years, so his words lingering

 C. John the generational prophet 11-14

 None greater than John of those born of woman – the greatest man

 But those in Kingdom of heaven are greater, with God better than on earth

 Kingdom of heaven – rule of God on earth, JS12 preaching 417 53 720,21 811 107

suffers violence the violent taking by force – generation opposing Jesus

9:34 12:22-24, we will see increasing opposition chapter 12ff

 John a generational prophet – all the prophets and the law prophesied until John

 And IF you are willing to receive it – John is ‘Elijah’ who is to come

 Malachi 4:5a Lord says I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great

 and dreadful day of the Lord and he will turn the hearts …

see also 17:12-13

 D. Jesus exhorts the unsatisfied generation to hear 15

 ‘ears to hear’ is used as an expression to obey

 If not do then disobedience Dt29:4, Ezk12:2

 Exhortation to hear and obey Mt11:15 13:9,43

 I think correlation between ppl going to ‘see’ John now emphasized to ‘hearing’

 Lesson – time for using our ears to hear is now. Jesus was very clear that John was the

prophet end the OT. John was a trans generational prophet. So we are still in the

time we must hear and do. Of course John pointed to Jesus. Note Mal 4:5b-6

**III. Jesus’ Generation Not Satisfied With John or Jesus 16-19**

 A. Unsatisfied generation is like unsatisfied children 16-17

 Jesus – what shall I liken or compare this generation, His generation

 Like children sitting in a market place saying to one another, playing games

 We played [play Wedding] the flute for you and you did not dance

 We mourned [play Funeral] to you and you did not lament

 This generation like children – nt get what they want, not satisfied, not responsive

 The children played and mourned but the other children did not respond

 B. Unsatisfied generation unsatisfied with Jesus and John 18-19a

 For – explanation

 John came neither eating or drinking and they[this generatn] says:he has a demon

 The Son of Man comes eating and drinking and they [this generation] says a

winebibber, a glutton and a friend of tax collectors and sinners

 Son of Man – most common way JS referred to Mt8:20 9:6 10:23 12:8

 [Son of God – used 26 X’s to refer to JS Mt4:3,6 8:29 14:33]

 John and Jesus both criticized by ‘this generation’ for opposite characteristics

 No matter who/Who God sent 2this generation they did not/would not respnd ++.

 C. Those satisfied with John and Jesus justified 19b

 Textual variant is last word ‘children’ or ‘works’, parallel pssg Lk735 has children

 But wisdom is justified by [all Lk7] her children

 The wisdom of accepting John and Jesus eventually vindicated

 All who accept the message of John and Jesus eventually vindicated

Lesson - Unsatisfied generation may hv the best God sends and not recognize or

Appreciate. God’s wisdom may not be seen by or satisfy ‘this generation’ but

there will be those who recognize it and follow it