

## **The Gospel of Luke**

### **Jesus Assesses John the Baptist and His Generation**

Luke 7:24-35

1. **Jesus Forces the People to Assess John the Baptist** (vs.24-25)  
John had fallen from the public eye, as well as from public favor (cf. v.33), but Jesus forces his audience to re-evaluate John and his ministry.
2. **Jesus' Lasting Assessment of John the Baptist** (v.26-28)
  - A. A Prophet and Forerunner of the Messiah (vs.26-27)  
The Messiah was the long awaited deliverer, and so the one who would herald His arrival would have a ministry unique even among the prophets.
  - B. The Greatest Man Born of Women (v.28)  
In order to emphasize the impossibility of comparing earthly greatness with eternal blessing, Jesus proclaimed John as the 'greatest man' who ever lived, while also saying that anyone entering God's Kingdom is greater than he.
3. **The People's Initial Assessment of John the Baptist** (vs.29-30)
  - A. The Common People's Assessment of John the Baptist (v.29)  
John and his message had been so popular as to stay Herod's hand from having him murdered (cf. Matt 3:5;ff; 14:5; Mark 1:5; Luke 3:7ff).
  - B. The Religious Leaders' Assessment of John the Baptist (v.30)  
Rebuked for false religion, they never endorsed John as a prophet and likely even encouraged slander against him (cf. Matt 3:7-10; 21:26; Luke 11:15).
4. **Jesus' Assessment of His Current Generation** (vs.31-34)
  - A. The Parable of the Children in the Marketplace (vs.31-32)  
No game is acceptable to these children just as no method of proclaiming the gospel is acceptable to this generation.
  - B. The People's Current Assessment of John the Baptist (v.33)  
"He is strange and aloof with a message of judgment; he must have a demon."
  - C. The People's Current Assessment of Jesus (v.34)  
"He dines with sinners and his preaches forgiveness; he must be a reprobate."
5. **Jesus' Assessment of Those Who Respond Rightly** (v.35)  
Though people are fickle and easily swayed in how they view both Himself and John the Baptist, Jesus is confident that those who truly and properly respond to both John and to Jesus will verify the greatness of God and the truthfulness of their messages.