



The Danger and Damnation of Indifference

"We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept" (Luke 7:32).

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"And the Lord said, Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? and to what are they like? 32 They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept. 33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil. 34 The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners! 35 But wisdom is justified of all her children" (Luke 7:31-35; see also Matthew 11:16-19).

Indifference or apathy is worse than a terminal cancer and can kill its victim, if s/he is not rid of it, because such a condition could make the 'infected' reject the very means of remedy (e.g. medication, treatment, etc.) that could save them. This is what Jesus turned His attention to in this teaching, from which we learn the following:

- 1) "Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation?" (Luke 7:31). The subject of this teaching are "the men of this generation" - i.e. adult men (and women).
- 2) "... It is like unto children..." (Matthew 11:16) This implies that these adults are immature in their development and thinking. They think, speak and act like unenlightened children that lack understanding of the real issues and dangers associated with their actions. **"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things"** (I Corinthians 13:11; Hebrews 6:1)
- 3) "It is like unto children sitting in the markets..." (Matthew 11:16). They are at the wrong places at the wrong time. Children (and undeveloped adults), ought to be in school or employment training like apprenticeship to develop themselves for future usefulness. These not only fail to use their opportunities but ended up sitting in market places, meant for serious business. Note that they were sitting, and not engaged in any serious business, but playing. People of indif-

"A different world cannot be created by indifferent people"

ference and apathy are good at being spectators rather than participants in life.

- 4) "... calling unto their fellows, And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented" (Matthew 11:16-17). Indifference and apathy turns a place of serious business into a child's playground or amusement park. The serious things of life and faith are devalued in their thoughts and life. **"I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing"** (Hosea 8:12). Their lightness and immaturity could even become a distraction to serious business people in the market **"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad"** (Matthew 12:30). **"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth"** (Revelation 3:15-16).
- 5) "... But wisdom is justified of all her children" (Luke 7:33-35). Focusing on externals, they failed to discern the deep spiritual elements in the Ministries of John and Jesus. They lack wisdom, discernment, spiritual perception and understanding; and as a result easily rush to wrong interpretations and conclusions. **"Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant?"** (Isaiah 42:19). It is these that re-enforces their apathy and indifference. **"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word"** (I Kings 18:21).