

REJECTED THE COUNSEL OF GOD**Introduction**

In Luke 7, Jesus asked the people about their motive for going to see John the Baptist when he was preaching and baptizing in the wilderness. Christ made it clear that John the Baptist was the prophet that Malachi wrote of saying: Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee (Luke 7:27, Malachi 3:1). Many religious individuals from the Pharisees and experts in the law of God rejected (set aside, disesteem) the counsel (purpose, advice) of God during the time of John the Baptist (Strong's Dictionary). They refused to be baptized of John and accept the purpose and plan of God.

Memory Verse: Luke 7:30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

Biblical Application

Jesus compared the generation of his time to a group of 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. The generation to which Jesus was speaking, refused to accept the plan of salvation because it was not on their terms. John the Baptist and Jesus Christ did not come to them according their personal beliefs, preconceived ideas, and religious rituals. The Pharisees and lawyers wanted Jesus to dance to their tune and conform to their establishment. The same has occurred in this generation. Jesus Christ is being rejected for not conforming to political beliefs and many societal norms. Instead of dying with Christ and being raised with him to walk in newness of life many want to have some of Jesus and some of the world. People reject the counsel of God through only accepting certain parts of the Scripture. Many want a surface level relationship in which they receive the love of God, but refuse to turn to God with all their heart. Some think they will make it to heaven without rending their heart or their garment (Joel 2:12-13). The Scriptures are clear, that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God (I Corinthians 6:9-10). Let us be careful to accept and conform our lives to the whole counsel of God.

- Accept the counsel of God. Luke 7:24-35; Luke 2:2-9.

- Be prepared for the day of the Lord. Joel 2:1-17; Zephaniah 1:1-7.
- Avoid being lukewarm. Revelation 3:14-22.

Everyday Life Application

Do you personally accept the Bible in its entirety as absolute truth? Discuss some ways that people who claim to believe in Christ have rejected the counsel/Word of God.