

Not Just Another Story:

Children in the Marketplace

From songs and novels to movies and TV, there is something unique about the power of stories and their ability to resonate with our hearts in compelling and moving ways. In the gospels, we see many accounts of Jesus telling parables and re-imagining stories to teach, equip and win the hearts of his hearers. And yet, Jesus wasn't a mere teacher or storyteller, but one who communicated, and is himself, the power of God for salvation. Let's examine what makes the stories of Jesus so unique, powerful and life giving to us today.

Ice Breaker Question:

What is a situation or circumstance that you are a 'people pleaser'?

Luke 7:28-35

²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

²⁹ (All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)

³¹ Jesus went on to say, "To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? ³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other:

"'We played the pipe for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge,
and you did not cry.'"

³³ For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' ³⁴ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' ³⁵ But wisdom is proved right by all her children."

What stuck out to you? Share some observations from the passage.

What is something about how Jesus told this story that might have challenged the hearer's assumptions?

What was their problem with John the Baptist? With Jesus?

What is something about how Jesus told this story that challenges our assumptions?

How does this story show us the true realities of Jesus' life, the kingdom of God & the gospel?
Who is John pointing people to? Why? What is the difference in "sinners" and Pharisees hearts?

If we have been changed by the gospel, how does today's discussion speak into our daily living?