

Luke 7:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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!

Analysis

Jesus concludes: 'But wisdom is justified of all her children' (Greek 'edikaiosthe hē sophia apo pantōn tōn teknon autēs'). True wisdom proves itself through its results ('children'). John's and Jesus's ministries, though different in method, produced genuine converts who vindicated divine wisdom. The verb 'justified' (edikaiōthē) means declared righteous, vindicated. Results authenticate method. Those who responded to either John or Jesus demonstrated wisdom's validation. Reformed theology recognizes that effective ministry manifests in transformed lives, not mere approval ratings. Paul wrote 'our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance' (1 Thessalonians 1:5). True fruitfulness vindicates God's methods.

Historical Context

The phrase echoes Proverbs personification of Wisdom calling to humanity. Wisdom's 'children' are those who respond to her call. Despite critics' complaints, both John and Jesus produced genuine disciples—repentant sinners, transformed lives, Spirit-filled believers. These results vindicated their ministries regardless of elite rejection. Early church similarly found validation not in Roman approval but in transformed pagans, martyrs' courage, and community love. Church growth under persecution demonstrated divine wisdom.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do genuine conversions and transformed lives vindicate ministry methods despite criticism?
2. What is the relationship between popularity and effectiveness in ministry?
3. How should ministers measure success—by human approval or spiritual fruitfulness?

Interlinear Text

ἐλήλυθεν ὁ νίδος τοῦ ἄνθρωπος ἐσθίων καὶ πίνων
is come G3588 The Son G3588 man G444 eating G2068 and G2532 drinking G4095
G2064 G5207 G444 G2068 G2532 G4095

καὶ λέγετε Ἰδού, ἄνθρωπος φάγος καὶ οἰνοπότης
and ye say Behold man a gluttonous and a winebibber
G2532 G3004 G2400 G444 G5314 G2532 G3630

τελωνῶν φίλος καὶ ἀμαρτωλῶν
of publicans a friend and sinners
G5057 G5384 G2532 G268

Additional Cross-References

Luke 15:2 (Sin): And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

Matthew 9:11 (Sin): And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

John 12:2 (Parallel theme): There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

Luke 5:29 (Parallel theme): And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.

Luke 7:36 (Parallel theme): And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

Luke 19:7 (Sin): And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

Luke 14:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him.