



## **CURSED IF YOU DO, CURSED IF YOUR DON'T** The Story of the Spoiled Children



*Lesson by Ray Reynolds (7/25/10)*

Text: **Matthew 11:16-19**

Introduction: This particular parable seems strange when it is not considered in the context in which it was written. Let's back up and notice the context (**Matthew 11:1-15**). In the previous verses, Jesus has described the nature of John the Baptizer and his purpose. Why? The disciples of John had come to Jesus. These disciples wanted to know if Jesus was the Christ. Jesus responds to them by describing His work and then explaining John's work in hopes that they would realize their own work. When he completes the parable He rejects the sinful people that refused to follow Him (Bethsaida & Chorazin). Let's study this story together . . . .

Discussion:

### **I. WHAT IS THE STORY OF THE SPOILED CHILDREN?**

- A. The Story Is About His Generation
- B. The Story Is About Playtime
- C. The Story Is About Getting Along With Others
- D. The Story Is About Consistency & Hypocrisy

### **II. WHY DID JESUS TELL THIS STORY?**

- A. The Spoiled Children (**Matthew 27**)
- B. The Marketplace (**Matthew 23:1-39**)
- C. The Humble Children (**Romans 12:15**)
- D. The Ministry of John (**Matthew 3:1-17**)
- E. The Ministry of Jesus (**Matthew 5-7**)

### **III. HOW SHOULD WE APPLY THIS STORY?**

- A. Some People Will Not Change
- B. Its Not Always About The Method
- C. No Matter What You Do, You Will Not Please Everyone
- D. There Is One In Every Crowd

Conclusion: We often have a hard time listening to God's word. We have a hard time knowing what to do and when to do it. This story reminds us that we aren't always going to be right, but someone can help us get back on the right path. John prepared the way and then Jesus became the Way! Don't be like spoiled children who whine, moan, weep, and pout! God wants us to get back in the game!

**WORD OF THE DAY = "SPOILED"**