

Matthew 11¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' **Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.**"

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Series Theme: *Jesus reveals a Father who is worthy of your trust.*

Jesus goes to our parties to reveal himself better than any other food or drink.

ONE: Give thanks for today's party instead of longing for tomorrow's.

Mat 11.1-6

Matthew 11⁶ **And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."**

TWO: Stand amazed that the Lord of the Feast has come to banquet in such as time as this.

Mat 11.7-15

Matthew 11¹³ **For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John,**¹⁴ **and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.**
¹⁵ **He who has ears to hear, let him hear.**

THREE: Don't try to run the party.

Mat 11.16-19

Matthew 11^{19b} **Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."**

FOUR: Don't think the Lord of the Feast a wimp.

Matthew 11²⁴ **But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."**

FIVE: If you're beginning to act toward others as do the Father & his Son (see also Matt 5.38-48) you know you feast at the right table and are exchanging your burden and yoke for his.

Matthew 11²⁹ **Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**³⁰ **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."**

Questions for interaction and study

1. Read Matt 9.14-17. In Mat 11.2-6 John's disciples (and John who sent them) are most likely seeing the mercy of Jesus but wondering how John's preparatory message of repentance and judgment can fit with Jesus' eating with tax gatherers and sinners **before** they repent. How do we still think like these disciples instead of like the Father and his Son? Consider Romans 5.6-8 in light of how Jesus lived and died.
2. In Matt 11.7-15 Jesus points out the radical change for which John's ministry prepared: the coming of God among men, the beginning of a new day when birth by a woman would be as nothing compared to being born again of the Spirit. What are some of the things that hinder you/us from living today in light of how big the change Jesus' coming made?
3. Two yokes are described in Matthew 11: ONE/ the yoke of those who live for material and momentary pleasures (making life a celebration) & TWO/ the yoke of whatever rules/measures of success both religious and non-religious use to make them think they're okay, to define their acceptance before God & others. Which do you most tend towards?
4. How (see 3) is Jesus the source of both celebration and our acceptance before God? How is he the giver of ultimate purpose and satisfaction?
5. Look at point FIVE, above: how does Jesus' life and teaching redefine obedience as our becoming loving gatherers: sheep who become shepherds because they've been forgiven into taking on a new yoke?