

Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for March 30, 2025
That's a Great Question: To what can I
compare this generation?

That's a Great
QUESTION

Begin by reflecting on/sharing a high and/or a low from your week

• CONNECT

- o Have you ever heard someone say, "Things were better back in my day"? Why do you think people tend to compare generations, and how does that shape your understanding of the present?

• GROW

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. 14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. 15 Whoever has ears, let them hear.

16 "To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

*17 "We played the pipe for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge,
and you did not mourn."*

18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by her deeds."

Matthew 11:11-19

- o Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
- o In verse 11, Jesus speaks highly of John the Baptist, yet says that "the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." What do you think Jesus means by this?
- o Jesus describes how different groups responded to both John the Baptist and Himself (vv. 16-19). What point is He making about the attitudes of His generation?
- o What does Jesus' comparison reveal about the human tendency to reject God's work when it does not meet our expectations?
- o How do you see similar attitudes in today's culture when it comes to accepting or rejecting Jesus?
- o ****Expanding the Theme**** Read Romans 3:9-24
- o Paul writes that "there is no one righteous, not even one" (v. 10). How does this passage

reinforce Jesus' critique of His generation in Matthew 11?

- o In what ways does Romans 3 help us recognize that every generation, not just Jesus' or ours, struggles with sin and self-righteousness?
- o Paul's conclusion in verse 24 points to justification through grace. How does this change the way we view our own generation and others?
- o ****Application Questions****
- o How do we see generational comparisons play out in the church today? In what ways might these comparisons help or hinder our faith?
- o How can we focus less on judging other generations and more on recognizing our shared need for God's grace?

- **SERVE** *others*

- Rather than getting caught up in comparing "better" or "worse" generations, shift your focus to how God is working in the present. This week, challenge yourself to listen to someone from a different generation—whether older or younger—and ask them where they see God moving in the world today. How might this conversation help you better understand God's grace across all ages?

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing**