*“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places and calling to one another, ‘we played the flute for you but you did not dance; we wailed and you did not mourn” Matthew 11:16*

1. Introduction
   1. Elections of Barack Obama, Justin Trudeau and even to his own demographic
      1. Elected amidst the great hope and expectations
      2. ‘Yes we can’, Trudeau’s promise of ‘Real Change’
      3. Billed as the saviour of the nation – great promises to right the wrongs of society etc.
      4. Quickly things change – reality sets in
         1. Failed promises, broken people, bad decisions etc.
   2. All too often we set lofty expectations on our leaders – and then quickly things turn when they are not who we expect them to be
2. The same was true in Jesus’ day
   1. Israel expected a Messiah
   2. Many in the crowd believed John the Baptist was the Messiah
   3. John pointed to Jesus as God’s coming Messiah
   4. In our reading Jesus is chiding the crowds who say that John the Baptist was too austere and that he was too self-indulgent
   5. Jesus didn’t look like the Messiah that was promised
   6. Even John the Baptist was questioning – he had sent his disciples to ask whether Jesus truly was the Messiah

*“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.” Matthew 11:21*

1. Jesus often doesn’t fit our expectations for him either
   1. In our own lectionary reading this morning Jesus’ words of judgement are edited out
      1. We don’t like to hear this kind of talk from Jesus
      2. We are far more comfortable with the end of the passage “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” *Matthew 11:28*
      3. We want Jesus to fit into nice little box
2. “If God never disagrees with you, you might just be worshipping an idealized version of yourself” – *Timothy Keller*
   1. When God fails to meet our expectations, we can become disappointed, disillusioned
   2. The reality is that God rarely works as we would expect
      1. God chooses Abraham and Sarah
      2. God chooses David the youngest of his brothers
      3. God sends his Spirit to a young unwed woman to bear his Son
      4. Jesus death is another way God does the unexpected – he is meant to be king, powerful, overthrow the principalities and powers
3. We must take God at both his most challenging and his most comforting
   1. Our life of discipleship is not as simple as finding comfort in Jesus,
   2. As we have heard over the last few weeks there is mighty challenge in the call to follow Jesus
   3. And part of that challenge is to give up our pre-conceived notions of who Jesus is, and what he will do for us
   4. Jesus calls us to follow him, follow him on this unexpected path
      1. Eating with the ‘wrong’ people
      2. Associating with sinners and tax collectors
      3. Risking our time/talent/treasure
      4. Dying to self
   5. It as the Church lives this way, Jesus promises that we will find rest and comfort.