Luke 7:31-35
Jesus said to the crowds:
"To what shall I compare the people of this generation?
What are they like?
They are like children who sit in the marketplace and call to one another,
'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance.
We sang a dirge, but you did not weep.'
For John the Baptist came neither eating food nor drinking wine,
and you said, 'He is possessed by a demon.'
The Son of Man came eating and drinking and you said,
'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard,
a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'
But wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

Our Scripture Reflection
Jesus takes the crowd to task because of their wishy washy and fickle attitude toward God’s revelation to them. “What will satisfy you?? He is asking them. John the Baptist preached repentance and you called him possessed because of his harsh words and austere lifestyle. I, The Son of Man, try to preach the Kingdom of God to you on your level and you attack both the messenger and His message! What will it take to satisfy you?” Jesus concludes His reprimand of their attitude by issuing an indictment towards them: “Wisdom is vindicated by her children”...When the Kingdom comes, God will acknowledge as His children those who were humble enough to listen to, accept and live His divine message.

Food for your Journey
The Personal Listening Profile, as developed by the Carlson Learning Company suggests that effective listeners need five different kinds of listening skills in their listening "toolbox." If we are
to "listen" to this culture so that we can build windows of communication to it, we need listening that is:
appreciative -- the kind of listening you do when you watch a play or listen to music;
empathetic -- listening that lets people know they are being cared for as they tell their feelings and thoughts;
comprehensive -- listening that is analytical, that organizes and collates what is being said and passes it through multiple grids. What is really being communicated by that word, that metaphor?
discerning -- listening that takes in everything so that you may figure out what is the spirit of what is being said. But discerning listening means you need to get the whole picture, all the facts, the complete story;
evaluative -- this is how you listen to a politician's speech or a sales pitch; you set your emotions aside and list the pros and cons.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, There is so much noise out there; so many messages that confuse and conflict. But there is only one message, one voice, that is true, loving, wise and compassionate. That is the voice of the Good Shepherd, Jesus. He not only spoke the Truth, but He also backed it up with His life. Make me humble and open to His voice at all times. May I seek and follow His way.
Amen