



Daily Reflections

March 16, 2018

Scripture

Wisdom 2: 1, 12-22

The wicked said among themselves,
thinking not aright:

"Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us;
he sets himself against our doings,

Reproaches us for transgressions of the law
and charges us with violations of our training.

He professes to have knowledge of God
and styles himself a child of the LORD.

To us he is the censure of our thoughts;
merely to see him is a hardship for us,
Because his life is not like that of others,
and different are his ways.

He judges us debased;
he holds aloof from our paths as from things impure.

He calls blest the destiny of the just
and boasts that God is his Father.

Let us see whether his words be true;
let us find out what will happen to him.

For if the just one be the son of God, he will defend him
and deliver him from the hand of his foes.

With revilement and torture let us put him to the test
that we may have proof of his gentleness
and try his patience.

Let us condemn him to a shameful death;
for according to his own words, God will take care of him."
These were their thoughts, but they erred;
for their wickedness blinded them,
and they knew not the hidden counsels of God;
neither did they count on a recompense of holiness
nor discern the innocent souls' reward.

Our Scripture Reflection

In a book found only in the Catholic Bible, the author of the Book of Wisdom describes the thinking of the wicked person towards a righteous man. They detest the very presence of the just one because his way of living casts judgment on the sinful ways of the wicked man. His solution for dealing with the just man? Kill him. I remember a number of years ago a very kind and humble woman told me about a situation that greatly troubled her. She was at a holiday party when a local businessman approached her and said, "Carolyn, you are so sweet you make my teeth hurt." She was mortified by his words and wondered what she might have done to provoke such an unkind statement. I assured her that she had done nothing wrong, in fact, her way of living was virtuous and right. I told her that people only hurt others when they themselves are hurting.

Food for your Journey

"There's only one thing that enables me to accept what I cannot understand about my suffering and the suffering of this world: the Cross," says Nancy Guthrie in *The One Year Book of Hope* (Tyndale House Publishers, 2010). "I see that the Cross is the ultimate example of God's ability to work all things together for good - even the most wicked deed darkness ever conceived. And if God can work together the cruel death and enormous suffering of his Son on the cross to bring about the greatest good of all time, then perhaps he really can do something good in and through the suffering in our lives too."

A Prayer from the Heart

Behold me, my beloved Jesus,
weighed down under the burden of my trials and sufferings,

I cast myself at Your feet,
that You may renew my strength and my courage,
while I rest here in Your Presence.

Permit me to lay down my cross in Your Sacred Heart,
for only Your infinite goodness can sustain me;
only Your love can help me bear my cross;
only Your powerful hand can lighten its weight.

O Divine King, Jesus,
whose heart is so compassionate to the afflicted,
I wish to live in You;
suffer and die in You.

During my life be to me my model and my support;
At the hour of my death,
be my hope and my refuge. Amen