

Daily Reflections

ADVENT

The Divine Intervention

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Scripture

Matthew 11:16-19

Jesus said to the crowds:

"To what shall I compare this generation?

It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another,

'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance,
we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said,
'He is possessed by a demon.'

The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said,

'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard,
a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'

But wisdom is vindicated by her works."

Our Scripture Reflection

In today's text, Jesus criticizes the crowds for their fickleness. They are like spoiled children who are never satisfied. John preached repentance, they complained. Jesus preached new life in His Kingdom. They complained. Jesus teaches them that wisdom comes from humbly and gratefully accepting what

God gives, period. During this season of receiving gifts, shouldn't we take the time to realize what a great gift we have in Jesus?

Food for your Journey

Have you ever watched an icicle form? Did you notice how the dripping water froze, one drop at a time, until the icicle was a foot long or more? If the water was clean, the icicle remained clear and sparkled brightly in the sun; but if the water was slightly muddy, the icicle looked cloudy, its beauty spoiled. Wisdom is formed just like an icicle. Each thought or feeling adds its influence. Each decision we make — both great and small — contributes its part. Everything we take into our minds and souls — impressions, experiences, images or words — helps create wisdom.

Wisdom comes from God as a byproduct of right decisions, godly reactions and the application of scriptural principles to daily circumstances. Wisdom comes from being faithful to the obscure tasks few people ever see. Wisdom comes from living a disciplined life. Wisdom comes from keeping your eyes focused on God and his Word. Psalm 90:12 (NIV) says, "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

—Rod Handley, "Wisdom," in the book *Character Counts for Quiet Time and Small Groups*, Gospelcom.net.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Please give me the Grace to stop seeking and searching and to start thanking instead. Amen.

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