



Lenten

Reflections

The Divine Intervention

March 31, 2017

Scripture

Wisdom 2: 1A, 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

What kind of people would put an innocent man to death in the most humiliating and cruel of ways? The author of the Book of Wisdom gives us something of a "mind reading" of the wicked. How horrible their thoughts! But how kind and loving were the thoughts of their victim, Jesus. If you ever find yourself thinking cruel thoughts about another person, just remember Jesus, and with His Grace, they will go away.

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

Dear Jesus, Please keep my mind and heart holy and pure, especially during those times when I am tempted to do wrong to another person. Amen.