

Isaiah 48: 17-19.

Matthew 11: 16-19.

When I was young at home, my mother often said to me, “If you give time to your school work now you will be grateful later on.” How right she was! I think of this every time I hear the words of Jesus to the crowd referring to the children shouting to each other as they sat in the market place: “We played the pipes for you and you wouldn’t dance, we sang dirges and you wouldn’t mourn.” Non listening equals missed opportunities in the face of wisdom.

Just as Isaiah, in today’s Reading, was reminding the Jews of his day of what could have been, had they listened to the word of God, Jesus is cautioning the crowds in a similar way as they too find excuses and reasons not to listen and, indeed, actively oppose the work of John the Baptist and Himself. John neither eats or drinks and they say he is possessed. Jesus ate and drank in the company of many in need and they called him a glutton and a drunkard. What excuses and judgements do we find not to listen to the wisdom which is the Word of God and, ‘is proved right by her actions?!’