

Isaiah 48: 17-19

Matthew 11: 16-19

Anyone with children or grandchildren can appreciate Jesus' words at the beginning of today's Gospel. "What description can I find for this generation? It is like children shouting at one another as they sit in the marketplace." "We played the pipes for you, and you wouldn't dance; we sang dirges, and you wouldn't be mourners." Children distracted, wrapped up in their own thing, oblivious of other cares and responsibilities. Can you, like me, look back and remember the wise words of parents or teachers that went unheeded in the quest for some other more attractive occupation!

Isaiah's opening words, in the Reading, speak God's wisdom and love. "I, the Lord your God, teach you what is good for you. I lead you in the way that you must go." Words that are followed by his regret and sadness at their failure to do so.

Jesus reiterates these similar sentiments. The God who loves us has given us his Commandments of love and a way to follow those Commandments through his Word.

He wants us to enjoy our lives, but to use the gifts he has given us. Are we like the children who play gleefully but are oblivious to his wisdom and guidance in following our own whims or fancies and relying on our own reasoning? Do we ignore the John the Baptists in our own lives? Those who teach the word of God.

I guess it comes down to those words in Isaiah. "I, the Lord your God, teach you what is good for you. I lead you in the way that you must go." And we can only find out what that way is by reading and listening to His Word.