

Dear Friends,

“Let us beset the just one,  
because he is obnoxious to us; ...

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 hardship for us. Because his life is not like that of others, and different are his ways.”

[Wisdom 2.12-14]

The above passage is filled with vitriolic and spitefulness. The responses are centered on the innocent just one. He has touched a nerve among those around him. We do not know if it is something he said or did. Probably a combination of both, but in any case, the crowd is determined to do harm.

The author of the Book of Wisdom, in his description, seems to clearly be foreshadowing the figure of Christ. His portrayal is also present in the ‘Suffering Servant’ passages found in the Book of Isaiah.

What is brought into sharp relief in both is the wisdom of God versus the wisdom of the world. God’s wisdom turns human wisdom on its head, as the Apostle Paul is fond of quoting.

What seems less is more. What seems destructive is life giving and redemptive. What seems foolish is wise. What seems joyless is actually filled with joy and hope.

Christ’s own suffering, death, and resurrection are what becomes the paradigm. Only with the response of faith can we understand and embrace it in our own lives. Sister Ruth Burrows casts the issue in another light.

*God does not answer man’s expectations, the expectation of pride, of flesh and blood, not of the Spirit of God who wills all that is best for man.*

*The effect of God drawing close to us always means that what Isaiah said of the suffering servant becomes true for us. In a very deep way, we have to sacrifice that which ‘seems’ to make us man, what we think of as a beautiful spirituality; we have to be changed in a way that seems to make us less, not more human.*

*There is nothing here naturally attractive to man; rather, his instinct must be to turn away in revulsion. This, in practice, in hard reality, is what it means to embrace Jesus crucified, and, embracing him, embrace he who sent him and whose revelation he is. [Sister Ruth Burrows, O.C.D.]*

Sincerely,  
Father Beaudin

### **A Prayer to Saint Anthony**

Blessed Saint Anthony,  
patron saint of things lost, help me  
to find the strength, faith, and courage  
to overcome my fears and let God's  
healing grace fill my heart.

Help me to find again the love of the Infant Jesus in the joys and pain of  
my daily life, knowing that there is  
nothing that His love cannot help  
me to overcome.

*Amen*