

**Transformed by Wisdom Tradition**    Second Week of Advent    Friday, December 9, 2016  
8:15 AM    Is 48:17-19;    **Mt 11:16-19**    (St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin)    (Wisdom recommends that we be open to whatever is needed at the time.)

**“But wisdom is vindicated by her works.”**

The teachings of Jesus are really wisdom teachings. Very often the clash that exists between him and the leaders of the people is that his style is so different from theirs. They are basically teachers of Law, Torah, instruction, what to do, how to do it. **Jesus is not about what to do and how to do it, nor did he have much in common with the temple priesthood and their animal sacrifices.** His idea of sacrifice was himself, his will, his freedom; that is what he gave to the Father and everything else was superfluous.

But also **his idea of what to teach. It wasn't about what to do.** That's the problem with a lot of Christians: they want to be told what to do. Well, that's what the Torah is all about, but it doesn't go far enough because **Jesus' view was we need to be transformed.** In order to be transformed **we have to be willing to change.** In order to be changed and willing to change **we have to be ready to let go of our whole agenda** and that's not too easy. **Wisdom tradition is really about that.** It's about letting go of one's own agenda and **adopting something from above,** something not in evidence, **something that comes by intuition or insight or illumination.**

So he is comparing the present generation, and he is saying, you know, they are just not ready; they don't want to let go. And he quotes sort of a child's slogan or saying: **“We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.”** **Wisdom recommends that we be open to whatever is needed at the time.** When people around us are mourning, then it is appropriate to share in their grief. That is what God does, so that's what wisdom does. If people are dancing, it is appropriate to share their joy. And when we are so burdened with our own agenda, with our own feelings, that's simply a form of imprisonment. **Freedom is being willing and able to let go and just to be.**