

December 13, 2024



TAUGHT BY GOD

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's First Reading and Excerpts from the Responsorial Psalm

Thus says the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I, the LORD, your God, teach you what is for your good, and lead you on the way you should go. If you would hearken to my commandments, your prosperity would be like a river, and your vindication like the waves of the sea; your descendants would be like the sand, and those born of your stock like its grains, their name never cut off or blotted out from my presence.

ISAIAH 48:17-19

Those who follow you, LORD, will have the light of life.

JOHN 8:12

Happy indeed are those who follow not the counsel of the wicked, nor linger in the way of sinners nor sit in the company of scorners, but whose delight is the law of the LORD and who ponder God's law day and night. They are like a

tree that is planted beside the flowing waters, that yields its fruit in due season and whose leaves shall never fade; and all that they do shall prosper.

PSALM 1:1-3 (GRAIL TRANSLATION)

Reflection

As I read the above scripture readings, I was reminded of a favorite quote of mine in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures: ***“They shall all be taught by God.”*** *

Since my younger years, I have believed that our Creator desires to form us and teach us God’s ways and God’s own dream for each of us. Isaiah says that God teaches us what is for our good ... if only we would listen. The psalmist invites us to take delight in God’s Word, day and night. This is true—we will be blessed and find happiness when we learn to listen and watch for the direction God urges us to follow.... Let us be awake during these Advent days for the “in-breaking” of God’s desire to teach us and to form us into the person God dreams us into becoming.

* Isaiah 54:13; Jeremiah 31:34; John 6:45; 1Thessalonians 4:9; Hebrews 8:11.



A Golden Tree

Photo by Elisabeth Beall

For Pondering

Yesterday, I glanced out my office window and saw a huge liquid amber tree bathed in sunlight: its yellow leaves were all quivering from the breeze flowing through them, like fingers touching every leaf until, abruptly, they became still except for one dangling, golden leaf still quivering on its own. This spectacle reminded me of God's presence and dynamic movement giving delight to the eyes. "God comes to us clothed in the glory of the world." (Teilhard de Chardin)

Let us be alert to God's desire to teach and delight us at any moment.

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