



Advent Reflection for Tuesday, December 12, 2023

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Isaiah 30:18-21

Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you;
therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you.

For the Lord is a God of justice;
blessed are all those who wait for him.

O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem, you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer you. Though the Lord may give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself any longer, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Today's Reflection is by Carol Normandin

After reading this passage from Isaiah, I am profoundly struck by the thought that – "Jesus is the greatest teacher ever!" Why did I never notice this before? I have been involved in education for over fifty years. Teaching is my vocation. I have thought endlessly about methods and strategies. I have taken numerous courses. I have discussed educational issues with my teacher-husband and teacher-friends until we were exhausted, and of course, participated in hundreds of hours of "professional development" through the years trying to improve my craft. I have often been discouraged. I felt that results were mixed, pressures for pessimism intense and obstacles to improvement frequent. I should have been looking more at Jesus.

The person of Jesus as Teacher is strong throughout the Gospels. Jesus gathers little children unto Himself with love and teaches adults through parables. He uses the best pedagogical

practices of acceptance and engagement. This quote about teaching recently resonated with me: "The best teachers are those who show you where to look but don't tell you what to see."

(Alexandra K. Trenfor) Doesn't this sound like Isaiah's message? "And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'" The parables Jesus uses require internal processing and engagement.

He shows us the way, but we must find our own path to education and growth. I have been searching for how to be the best teacher for a long time. Now I am going to look to Jesus to find my best practices: showing love, using stories, encouraging interpretation and realizing that His voice is clear. "This is the way, walk in it."



Carol Normandin is a semi-retired high school teacher living in a Kansas City suburb. She is grateful for Zoom church and the opportunity to join the Holy Apostles' community along with my daughter Laura and her family, the Tyszkas.