

Readings Dec. 18, 2011
Qur'an and Gospel of Thomas

The readings this morning come from text sources I've never used before. I present them possibly to shake us up—me and you. We explore their meaning together.

QUR'AN 3:35-45

And when the angels said, 'Mary, God has chosen thee, and purified thee; He has chosen thee above all women.

Mary, be obedient to thy Lord, prostrating and bowing before Him.' . . .

When the angels said, 'Mary, God gives thee good tidings of a Word from Him whose name is Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary; high honored shall he be in this world and the next, near stationed to God.

He shall speak to men in the cradle, and of age, and righteousness he shall be.'

'Lord,' said Mary, 'how shall I have a son seeing no mortal has touched me?'

"Even so," God said, 'God creates what He will. When He decrees a thing He does but say to it "Be," and it is. And He will teach him the Book, the Wisdom, the Torah, the Gospel, to be a Messenger to the Children of Israel saying, "I have come to you with a sign from your Lord. I will create for you out of clay as the likeness of a bird; then I will breathe into it, and it will be a bird, by the leave of God. . .

And when Jesus perceived their unbelief, he said, 'Who will be my helpers unto God?'

The Apostles said, 'We will be helpers of

God; we believe in God; witness thou our submission. We believe in that Thou hast sent down, and we follow the Messenger. Inscribe us therefore with those who witness.'

And they devised, and God devised, and God is the best of devisers. . .

GOSPEL OF THOMAS 1, 2, 3 and 46

Prologue: These are the secret sayings that the living Jesus spoke and Didymos Judas Thomas recorded.

- 1 And he said, "Whoever discovers the interpretation of these sayings will not taste death."
- 2 Jesus said, "Those who seek should not stop seeking until they find. When they find, they will be disturbed. When they are disturbed, they will marvel and will rule the universe."
- 3 Jesus said, "If your leaders say to you, 'Look, the (Father's) empire is in the sky,' then the birds of the sky will precede you. If they say to you, 'It's in the sea,' then the fish will precede you. Rather, the (Father's) empire is inside you and outside you. When you know yourselves, then you will be known, and you will understand that you are children of the living Father. But if you don't know yourselves, then you live in poverty, and you are the poverty."
- 46 Jesus said, "From Adam to John the Baptizer, among those born of women, no one is so much greater than John the Baptizer, so his eyes should not be downcast. But I have said that whoever among you becomes a child will recognize the (Father's) empire and will become greater than John."