

December 19, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

## **Just Like Your Father**

**[Isaiah 11:1-10](#)**

*“The LORD's spirit will rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of planning and strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD.”*

My mother frequently told me I was just like my father! This normally was stated when she thought I was exhibiting irritating behaviors she did not like in my dad, but there were times they were lovingly stated about both my dad and me.

Good or bad, I normally accepted her comments as compliments. Why? Because I adored my father! I often did things hoping to please him. We had a very special bond. He had two daughters and no sons, so he and I shared in several activities that a father and son would. He taught me how to drive a straight nail, identify trees, plant and tend vegetable and flower gardens, and make the best pancakes!

Isaiah is filled with prophecies about the Messiah and this particular passage speaks fondly of the behaviors the “Anointed One,” Messiah would share with His Father. They are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit – wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

The last gift, fear of the Lord, is not a punitive fear but a “filial” fear like a child’s fear of disappointing his/her father. We recognize the authority of the Father. We want to please Him for all He has done for us.

During the Pandemic, many of us have spent more time as a family than we have in a very long time. We have shared special moments and memories as well as established new ones. We have also learned the importance of our church family, office family, and other groups we recognize as important to us.

Can you imagine the difference we could make in one another’s lives if we worked harder to behave more like our Heavenly Father? This Christmas may we all strive to share the traits of our Heavenly Father and give the gift of fear of the Lord as the gift that is sure to please Him.

***Prayer:*** *Heavenly Father, thank you for your love and understanding. I ask that my awe and awareness of your glory and power never fades from my heart and mind. Amen.*

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