

**Lessons for The Second Sunday after Christmas**

**January 3, 2021**

Psalm 119:97-104 ~ The psalmist praises God for his law which gives wisdom and understanding.

Kings 3:4-15 ~ Solomon prayed for a discerning heart, wisdom to govern God's people.

Ephesians 1:3-14 ~ God chose us in Christ to share in His spiritual blessings.

Luke 2:40-52 ~ As a boy in the temple, Jesus demonstrated he was a son of his Father's law.

**GATHERING THE TEXTS:** Wisdom and Understanding

Two of the gifts of the Spirit mentioned by Isaiah (11:2) in connection with the Messiah, the Shoot from the stump of Jesse, are wisdom and understanding. The young King Solomon recognized that he needed wisdom from God in order to govern God's people. St. Paul describes what it means to be chosen by God from the very foundation of the universe and adopted into the family of God through Jesus, God's only begotten Son: to receive redemption through His blood along with all wisdom and understanding. Just as Jesus grew in wisdom and understanding as a young boy, so we as God's children continue to grow spiritually and in the understanding of God's will and ways.

**PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE:** Dear Lord Jesus, as a little boy you grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. Help us continue to grow in spiritual understanding all our lives so that we may reflect your great love through us to others. Amen.

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:** God's law gives us wisdom in the use of all material goods with which he has blessed us so that we use them in service to God's people and his kingdom.

**OFFERING PRAYER:** Lord, Solomon sought wisdom to govern your people;  
You gave him riches to use in that task.  
Bless now these offerings we bring to your temple  
Show us how we should use them to bless all who ask. Amen.

**CONVICTION AND COMFORT:** We often pray for material blessings and for power to achieve them. Then we use them for our own enjoyment and ease of life. God has given us everything we need to support our bodies and fulfill our lives. In Christ he has also given us spiritual blessings by adopting us as his children and teaching us his commandments. He has forgiven our selfishness for Christ's sake and guides our growth in his will and ways as we are called to live in his kingdom.

**Questions to Consider:**

- How does Solomon's prayer indicate his servant heart?
- What does it mean to be adopted as children of God?
- Why is Jesus' time at the temple like a Bar Mitzvah observance?
- What in Jesus' response to Mary indicates that he placed himself under the law?

**Bonus:** next page - Ben's Bar Mitzvah

## **Ben's Bar Mitzvah**

No more shall sour grapes eaten by this child  
set his dad's teeth on edge! Though once beguiled  
by simple rules defining right and wrong,  
this day is his for he has studied long.  
From Moses he has learned that he must choose  
the good, but evil things he must refuse;  
The holy Law is father of this son,  
so now we celebrate that Benjamin  
has gained a moral man's majority  
and takes his own responsibility.  
Today we pray th' Almighty One to bless  
our Ben with lasting peace and righteousness.  
This true and faithful son of Abraham -  
the steadfast love of God abides with him!

*- Gilbert A Franke, 01/17/2009*