

December 3, 2021

[Isaiah 11:1-10](#)

This passage begins with an image of a new growth coming from a stump. Visualizing a fresh green offshoot calls me to hope and seek opportunity where I sense dread and tension. I'm a classic conflict avoider but this passage encourages me to think there can be peace and promise in a ravaged world or tough situation.

Verse 3 is a good reminder that you can't fool God with what the world sees and hears from you. God knows the inner workings of your unspoken thoughts and motives and will judge the real you despite what the world thinks.

Verse 6 onward speaks to a world where knowledge of the Lord flips everything upside down with no predators and harmony among all creatures. Seems like a foreign concept to what I see and hear today, but Christmas is a time to be encouraged and feel secure that the Lord's work is not done. Righteousness will win out like the new growth coming from the stump.

How can we help to advance Jesus' unfinished work?

Dear Lord, I pray that regardless our individual and the world's circumstances we can grab onto the hope that your work is not done. Give us the strength and peace of mind to confidently spread this message during the Advent season and throughout the year. Amen.

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