

If Jesus Came to Your House Today

Taken from the book of Fr. P. Ribes, s.j. "To be Like Jesus" Published by the Gujarat Sahitya Prakash.

Intent of these Notes:

- ✓ *This exercise is based on a fantasy on our home-life. Through such fantasy we may discover the 'hidden' values we, de facto, we live by.*
- ✓ *Our homes are extensions of ourselves; the style of our home life clearly shows who we are, what we love, and what we cherish.*
- ✓ *It can truly be said: "Let me stay for a while in your home, and I'll tell you who you are."*
- ✓ *This event has been used for: Recollections, Prayer services, Value clarification, and Family encounters*

Introduction

- Keep the room in semi-darkness with enough light to be able to take some jottings.
- Relax. Breathing and awareness exercises may help.
- For a while remain in reverent silence before God.
- Ask Jesus for the grace to be like Him.

STEP ONE:

"If Jesus Came to Your House To Stay"

Take time reading this poem. Ponder over it.

Take short notes of what strikes you most.

If Jesus came to your home to spend a day or two,
If he came unexpectedly, wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honoured guest,
And all the food you'd serve him would be the very best,

And you would keep assuring him you're glad to have him there.
That serving him in your home is joy beyond compare.

But, when you saw him coming would you meet him at the door,
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly guest

Or would you have to change your clothes before you let him in,
Or hide some magazines, and put the Bible where they'd been?

Would you turn off the T.V. or the video and hope that he had not seen or
heard?

And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?

Would you go right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep its usual pace?
And would you find it hard each meal to say table grace?

Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read?
And let him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?

Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go?
Or would you, maybe change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have him meet your very closest friends?
Or would you hope they stay away until his visit ends?

Would you be glad to have him stay forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief when he at last was gone?

**It might be interesting to know the things that you would do,
If Jesus came in person to spend some time with you.**

(Author unknown)

STEP TWO Fantasize that Jesus truly Comes to Your House Today

Imagin that:

- ✓ You have been told that Jesus will come to your home to spend a few days with you and your family.
- ✓ You have only one day to prepare your house for Jesus' visit.
- ✓ In a rush. You tidy up the place.
- ✓ You wish to make things pleasant for Jesus.
- ✓ Guess what Jesus will like to see in your house.
- ✓ And what he would not..
- ✓ You may perhaps hide a few things you do not want Him to see.
- ✓ Or dispose of the things Jesus may not approve of.
- ✓ Buy or bring in a few things missing in your home that will make Jesus feels at home with you.
- ✓ Discuss with your people also what they will do.
- ✓ And how they will entertain Jesus.

Keep on fantasizing:

- ✓ Jesus knocks at the door.
- ✓ You open it to Him.
- ✓ How does He look?
- ✓ How do you welcome Him?
- ✓ How do you feel when he enters your home?
- ✓ Do you think He is pleased?
- ✓ How will you behave at home today? As usual or in a better way?

Keep fantasizing...

- ✓ Had you to change the way you relate with your home people? With your wife or husband, your children or other members of your home?
- ✓ Are you kinder and more polite today?
- ✓ Are you talking as you do every day?
- ✓ Are the topics of your conversation the same than yesterday?
- ✓ Is there still any gossip going on right now?
- ✓ And your family prayers, are they the same or have you added some extra ones
- ✓ What books and magazines are lying around the place today?
- ✓ What TV programmes do you watch today?

Keep fantasizing...

- ✓ How do you treat your servants today?
- ✓ Do you shout at and abuse them?
- ✓ How do you talk to your neighbours today?
- ✓ How kind or unkind are you today to beggars and destitute people knocking at your door?

Keep fantasizing...

- ✓ When you go out with Jesus, do you visit the same people you usually do?
- ✓ Do you attend the same parties and go for the same movies as before?
- ✓ Do you still keep company with your every day friends?
- ✓ Do you visit the same places and spots you did before?
- ✓ Do you dare take Jesus wherever you go?
- ✓ In Jesus' company how do you spend your money? As you usually do?

STEP THREE Answer in Writing to the Following Points

1. When you were told of Jesus' visit

- How did you feel?
- What did you do?
- What did you change?
- What did you hide?
- What did you buy?
- What did you improve?

2. When Jesus was with you at home

- How did you behave? As usual or in another way? Describe.
- How did you talk? As usual or in another way? Describe.
- How did you pray? As usual or in another way? Describe.
- How did you feel? As usual or in another way? Describe.

3 When you went out with Jesus

- Where did you go? To your ordinary places? If not, where and why?
- With whom did you move? With your customary friends? If not, why?
- What things did you do? The same things, same games, same pastimes?
- What else did you do?

4 When Jesus was present

- How did you treat your servants?
- How did you behave towards your home people - wife/husband and children?
- How did you speak to the poor, beggars and unpleasant people?
- When annoyed and angry did you use the same abusive and harsh language?

STEP FOUR Personal Check and Goal Setting

Personal Check:

Go over the jottings you took. and write your reflections on these points:

1. What have you learnt about yourself? Your insights and discoveries? Describe.
2. Were Jesus to live with you and your family for a long time would you feel comfortable or uncomfortable? Why?
3. Would Jesus read what you read, watched the TV programs you watch, drunk what you drink, eat what you eat, etc.?
4. Would Jesus approve of your family prayers and your moral life?
5. Would he approve of your values and style of life? Why
6. Were you to live as he would, what things you would have to change in your life?

Goal Setting – Resolution:

GO OVER WHAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN ABOVE - PERSONAL CHECK - AND VERY BRIEFLY JOT DOWN WHAT YOU INTEND DOING FROM TODAY

1. My Goal: What I intend changing in my home to be more like Jesus is:

.....

2. Steps towards my goal: The concrete steps I will take from now on to be more like Jesus are:

- a).....
- b).....
- c).....
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3. **Regular checking times:** (*Fix a regular date every ninth to check on how you keep your resolution*)
On the of every month I'll check on my resolutions.