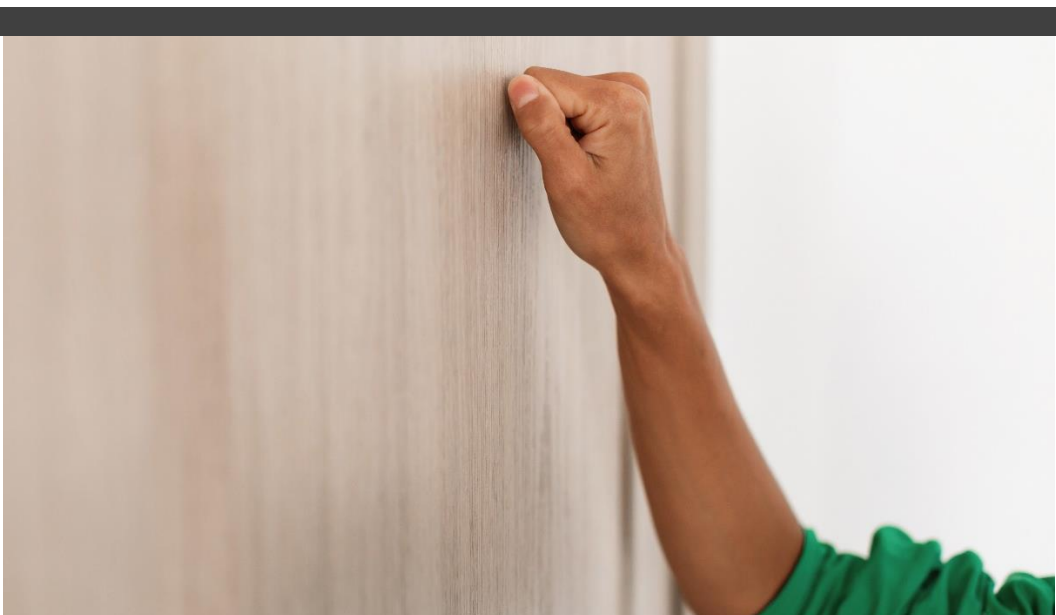


If Jesus Spent The Week With You



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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

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If Jesus Spent The Week With You

Introduction

A. In Luke 19, a short man named Zacchaeus (who was a chief tax collector) climbed up a sycamore tree to see Jesus as He passed that way. When Jesus saw him, He told Zacchaeus to come down because He would be going to his house (vv. 5-7). What an honor and joy this was!

B. In Revelation 3:20, Jesus told a group of Christians that He was standing at the door and knocking. If anyone would hear His voice and open the door, He would come in and eat with that one.

1. Of course, Jesus was speaking figuratively in this passage – that He would come into our lives and we could have fellowship together.

2. However, think about this literally for a few moments. What if Jesus really did come to the front door of your house and knock? When you answer, you are introduced to a Man named Jesus. He proves to be Jesus by showing you the scars on His hands, feet, and side. Then, He asks to stay with you for a period of one week.

C. Besides surprise, what would your initial reaction be? Would you be upset at the imposition? Would you be happy to have Him as guest? Or, would you be worried that His lifestyle would not match up with yours throughout the week?

D. I want you to consider how your life would be different if Jesus spent the week with you. Certainly, I am not saying that you should put on a false show for Jesus (as He can see right through such hypocrisy anyways). Nor am I suggesting you would be perfect and commit no sin during the week. Instead, simply evaluate how your efforts to live for the Lord would change if Jesus spent the week with you and was by your side every moment of the day.

E. Purpose: To learn how your life may be different if Jesus spent the week with you by considering Jesus's life and teachings and some application questions.

1. Would Your Worship Be Different?

A. Would you be more devoted to praising God?

1. Jesus taught that the Father is seeking those who will worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24). Jesus also spent significant time praising God and made sacrifices to do so while He was on the earth (Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12).

2. If Jesus spent the week with you, how much time would you spend devoted to praising God? Would you express greater thanks for the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross? Would you be more aware of what God has done so that you would stand in greater awe of Him? Would you devote more time to worshipping God in your own home and with your family?

B. Would you be more interested in learning God's word?

1. Even as a child, Jesus desired to listen to teachers of God's law and grew in wisdom and favor with God (Luke 2:46-49, 52). During His earthly ministry, He commended a woman (Mary) for her dedication to sit at His feet and listen to His teaching above the concerns of this life (Luke 10:38-42).

2. If Jesus spent the week with you, how much time would you spend listening to Him and asking Him questions? How often would you allow the unnecessary busyness of life choke out time you would get to spend doing so? How much would you allow other things (i.e. entertainment) to be prioritized above learning from Him?

C. Would you be more committed and thoughtful in attending the assemblies of the local church?

1. Although the church was not in existence during Jesus's life, Jesus did keep the appointed days and festivals under the Law of Moses. For example, Jesus can be seen in the synagogue on the Sabbath (Mark 6:2) and making special preparations for the Passover prior to His death (Matthew 26:17-18). Furthermore, Jesus never sinned (Hebrews 4:15), implying He kept whatever days and festivals God had required (Matthew 5:17-18). Today, Jesus has required you to faithfully attend the assemblies of the church (Hebrews 10:24-25).

2. If Jesus spent the week with you, would you do everything within your ability to attend all the assemblies of the local church so you could worship with Him? Would you invite Jesus to go wherever you chose to go instead of the assemblies (i.e. sports game/practice, after

school activity with your children, unnecessary overtime, a friend's house, stay home, etc.)? Would you make greater preparation for the assemblies so you would be more engaged in them? Would you arrive late if you could be there earlier?

2. Would Your Priorities Be Different?

A. Would your focus be different?

1. Jesus put His focus on doing the will of God (John 4:34). He also taught people to do the same, recognizing the things of this life as only temporary (Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:13-21).

2. If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be more careful to evaluate what really matters in your life? Would you more carefully evaluate what God wants rather than just doing what pleases yourself? Would the decisions you make be focused more on the spiritual rather than the physical?

B. Would you spend your time differently?

1. Jesus recognized that He only had a limited amount of time to accomplish the works the Father had sent Him to accomplish on this earth (John 9:4). In the same way, He has also taught us to make the best use of our time to accomplish His purposes (Ephesians 5:15-16).

2. If Jesus spent the week with you, would you spend so much time working voluntary overtime? Would you spend so much time engaging in recreational activities? Would you spend so much time on your hobby? Would you spend so much time watching television, scrolling through social media, playing video games, etc.? Would you spend more time with your family, worshiping God, teaching the lost, trying to help others, etc.?

C. Would you spend your money differently?

1. While Jesus lived on earth, He warned about the dangers of earthly riches (Luke 18:24-25). Although Jesus did not condemn the rich, He did teach about the foolishness of pursuing earthly riches (Luke 12:13-21). And, He taught people who had riches not to allow such to be an idol (Matthew 19:21-22).

2. If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be spending money on selfish and extravagant things? Would you be wasteful with your money? Would you find more ways to glorify Him with your money?

and possessions? Would you be less focused on accumulating more money to spend on your own desires?

D. Would your efforts to serve God be different?

1. Jesus viewed His mission on this earth as being such that honored God (John 5:30). Everything about His earthly life was viewed from this perspective. Then, based on the great sacrifice Jesus has made for us, Jesus wants us to be diligent in His service (Titus 2:11-14) – not settling for lukewarm service (Revelation 3:15-16)!

2. If Jesus spent the week with you, would you speak about Jesus more frequently and to more people you meet? Would you want to introduce other people to Him? Would there be anyone you would be ashamed or unwilling to introduce Him to? Would you tell people about all that He has done for them? Would you be more willing to serve the needs of others, even if the job was unpleasant? Would you be too busy with other things so that you would not have time to introduce people to Jesus or go with Him in serving others? Would you find the time to have your brothers and sisters in Christ to your home?

3. Would Your Character Be Different?

A. Would you be more committed to love?

1. Jesus demonstrated perfect commitment to love (John 15:13). Furthermore, He taught the greatest commandment in God's law is to love God and then love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:36-40).

2. If Jesus spent the week with you, would you demonstrate true love for God by keeping His commandments throughout your life and not consider doing so a burden? Would you demonstrate true love for others by acting in their best interests above your own selfish desires? Would you demonstrate the characteristics of love described by 1 Corinthians 13:4-7?

B. Would you be more committed to kindness and compassion?

1. Jesus demonstrated perfect kindness and compassion toward others. For example, when He saw a great multitude of people, He was moved with compassion for them and healed their sick (Matthew 14:14). He also gave those who were following Him and needed something to eat a meal (Matthew 14:15-21). Ultimately, Jesus showed His kindness and compassion toward all people by giving Himself as the sacrifice so we can be saved!

2. If Jesus spent the week with you, would you consider the needs of others above yourself? Would you be compassionate and show kindness toward those who are in need? Would you have compassion and show kindness toward those who are lonely and in need of someone to visit them? Would you have greater compassion on those who are spiritually lost and headed for an eternity in Hell by doing something to teach the gospel to them?

C. Would you be more committed to humility?

1. Jesus was the humblest person to ever walk this earth (Philippians 2:5-11). Furthermore, Jesus taught that true greatness is found through service rather than through elevating yourself and being served – both through His teaching and through His example (Matthew 20:20-28; John 13:1-17).

2. If Jesus spent the week with you, would you treat yourself as if you were the most important person? Would you refuse to do anything you felt was beneath your dignity? Would you be willing to do anything and everything Jesus asked – even if it meant putting your selfish ambitions and pride aside?

D. Would you be more committed to patience?

1. Jesus demonstrated true patience during His life. Even though He committed no sin, He suffered because of the sinful conduct of others. Yet, He endured the things that were done against Him (1 Peter 2:23). And, through it all, Jesus continued to do the Father's will.

2. If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be committed to doing the Father's will regardless of what challenging things happened to you? Whenever someone would speak evil of you, would you speak evil in return? When someone would be unkind to you, would you respond in an unkind way? Would you get tired of doing good so as to stop serving God?

4. Would Your Commitment To Holiness Be Different?

A. Would you speak the same way you usually speak?

1. Jesus guarded His words carefully during His earthly life. And, He taught that He will judge us for every careless word we say (Matthew 12:36-37). He has also taught us in Ephesians 4-5 concerning our speech that we must not lie (4:25), that no foul language should come from our mouths and only speak what is good for building up someone in need

(4:29), that all anger, wrath, shouting, slander, and malice should be removed from us (4:31), and that obscene and foolish talking and crude joking is not acceptable in us (5:4).

2. If Jesus spent the week with you, would you tear people down? Would you engage in gossip? Would you tell dirty and sinful jokes? Would you use God's name in vain? Would you use offensive language and profanity? Would you use euphemisms and slang? Would you be more committed to using your speech to praise God and help others do the same?

B. Would you dress the same way you usually dress?

1. Jesus was focused on the will of God while He was on this earth, not on pleasing Himself. Certainly, then, Jesus clothed Himself in a way that would honor His Father. Similarly, Jesus has given instructions concerning how we (particularly women) should dress (1 Timothy 2:9-10). Furthermore, Jesus warned about the dangers of lust (Matthew 5:27-30), which is often a greater temptation due to how people choose to dress (or undress).

2. If Jesus spent the week with you, would you go around shirtless (men)? Would you wear tight fitting clothing? Would you wear shorts or skirts that revealed your thigh? Would you wear your bathing suit? Would you wear pants with holes that reveal your thigh? Would you wear low-cut tops (women)? Would you wear clothes with certain pictures or words that conveyed worldly ideas? Would you wear clothes that draw attention to yourself rather than to God? Would you take any more precautions to make sure both you and your family were clothed in a way that fits with those who profess godliness?

C. Would you participate in the same entertainment/recreation you usually enjoy?

1. While Jesus was focused on accomplishing the work He had been sent to accomplish, we can also see Scriptures that demonstrate Jesus still valued time for rest (Mark 6:31). However, since Jesus did not sin, we can be certain that He never engaged in any recreation that had anything sinful in it. For, Jesus teaches us to stay away from evil (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)!

2. If Jesus spent the week with you, what kind of entertainment and recreation would you participate in? Would you watch the same television shows/movies you normally watch? Would you stay away from viewing or listening to things that portray sinful things (i.e. sexual sin,

filthy language, immodest dress, drugs, etc.) in a glorified way? Would you spend so much time in the things you usually do for entertainment or would you be more focused on working for the Lord? Would you go to all the same places you usually visit or would you choose them more carefully?

D. Would you practice the same habits you usually practice?

1. Jesus taught that a tree is known by its fruit (Luke 6:43-45). In this, Jesus taught that good trees do not produce bad fruit and bad trees do not produce good fruit. This is certainly applicable to the habits we develop in our lives. Jesus produced good habits (like prayer, teaching God's word, helping others, etc.) in His life.

2. If Jesus spent the week with you, what kind of habits would you practice? Would you practice all the same kinds of habits you might normally engage in? Would you be more mindful of your habits so that you can avoid the bad ones and show more good ones? Would you stay away from smoking/rubbing tobacco products, drinking alcohol, looking at pornography, overeating, laziness, procrastinating, etc.? Would you try to develop or increase things like prayer, thankfulness, speaking in Jesus's name, etc.?

Conclusion

A. Of course, we know that Jesus is not going to spend the week with you *physically*. However, the Scriptures clearly teach that Jesus sees everything we do (Proverbs 15:3; Hebrews 4:13) and will always be with His followers (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5-6)!

B. You must recognize, then, that if you would do something differently in your life if Jesus spent the week with you, you should always be different! There is something wrong if you would not live the same way if Jesus was with you. So, as you make decisions in your life (about the things we have discussed and others we did not discuss), it may be helpful to ask: "What would I do if Jesus spent the week with me?"

Study Questions

What would your reaction be if Jesus knocked on your door and wanted to spend the week with you?

1. Would Your Worship Be Different?

Would you be more devoted to praising God? If so, how?

Would you be more interested in learning God's word? If so, how?

Would you be more committed and thoughtful in attending the assemblies of the local church? If so, how?

2. Would Your Priorities Be Different?

Would your focus be different? If so, how?

Would you spend your time differently? If so, how?

Would you spend your money differently? If so, how?

Would your efforts to serve God be different? If so, how?

3. Would Your Character Be Different?

Would you be more committed to love? If so, how?

Would you be more committed to kindness and compassion? If so, how?

Would you be more committed to humility? If so, how?

Would you be more committed to patience? If so, how?

4. Would Your Commitment To Holiness Be Different?

Would you speak the same way you usually speak? If not, why not?

Would you dress the same way you usually dress? If not, why not?

Would you participate in the same entertainment/recreation you usually enjoy? If not, why not?

Would you practice the same habits you usually practice? If not, why not?

