

If Jesus Spent The Week With You



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

If Jesus Spent The Week With You

Learn whether your worship, priorities, character, commitment to holiness, and service to God would be different if Jesus spent the week with you

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About the author: My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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If Jesus Spent The Week With You

In Luke 19, a short man named Zacchaeus (who was a chief tax collector) climbed up a sycamore tree in order that he might see Jesus as He passed that way. “And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.’ So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, ‘He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner’” (verses 5-7). What an honor and a joy Zacchaeus considered it when Jesus wanted to stay at his house!

In Revelation 3:20, Jesus told a group of Christians, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” Of course, this passage speaks figuratively. Jesus is pleading with you to allow Him to come into your life by allowing His will to take control of your life. Then, you will have fellowship with Christ and God as a result.

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

Besides surprise and bewilderment, 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? Certainly, there would be many thoughts that would run through your mind at that time – and throughout the entire week of Jesus’ stay. Certainly, you would be very thoughtful of the special Guest (the Son of God) who was staying with you in everything that you would do throughout the week.

During the course of this lesson, I want you to honestly consider how your life would be different if Jesus spent the week with you. Now, I am certainly not saying that you should put on a false show for Jesus during that week (since He hates and would rebuke such hypocrisy, see Matthew 23). Nor am I suggesting that you would be perfect and commit no sin during that week (see 1 John 1:8). Instead, I am simply wanting you to 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.

Would Your Worship Be Different?

Whenever Jesus lived on this earth, He taught the importance of worshiping God. In John 4:23-24, He taught a Samaritan woman at a well, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” Then, not only did Jesus verbally teach that worshiping the Father is important, but He also demonstrated that worshiping God is important throughout His earthly life. So, if Jesus spent the week with you, would your worship be different?

Would you be more devoted to praising God?

The Father is seeking those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. How devoted are you

normally to expressing this kind of praise and reverence toward God? Would you spend the same amount of time worshiping God during the week that Jesus was staying with you? Or, would you feel compelled to make a much stronger effort to sincerely praise God. After all, it was Jesus who rose long before daylight to go to a solitary place and pray (Mark 1:35) and who spent all night in prayer (Luke 6:12).

Would you imitate the good example of the Psalmist, who frequently expressed his fervent desire to praise God and meditate on His ways? For instance, would you try to resemble the attitude expressed in Psalm 63:6? “When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches.” Are you so consumed by your awe of God that any time you think of God, you meditate upon Him and want to give Him praise? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be more devoted to praising God?

Would you be more thankful?

How thankful are you? Do you live your life taking for granted the things that God has done for you (both physically and spiritually)? Do you continually fail to thank God for your physical blessings (your job, your house, your family, your clothing, your food, your health, etc.)? Jesus, Himself, provides His personal example of offering thanks to God. When He observed His final Passover and instituted the Lord’s Supper, Matthew 26:26-27 records, “...Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it... Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them.” If Jesus spent the week with you, would you demonstrate your true thankfulness for the physical blessings of life?

Even more, how thankful are you for the spiritual things God has done for you? Namely, how thankful are you that God loved you enough to send Jesus to die for you? If Jesus spent the week with you, how often would you express your deep appreciation that He chose to come to this earth, endure hatred, be ridiculed, be spat on, be severely beaten, have a crown of thorns put on His head, and be nailed to the cross so that you could not perish in your sins and so that you could have Heaven as your home (see John 3:16 and Romans 5:6-11). Hebrews 13:15 says, “Therefore by Him let us continually

offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.” If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be more thankful?

Would you be more interested in learning God’s word?

How much time do you spend studying the word of God? How interested are you in learning what God wants from your life? Are you like the people of Berea, who searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether they were being taught the truth (Acts 17:11)? Perhaps you are like the Psalmist, who said, “My eyes are awake through the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word” (Psalm 119:148). Or, is your time so consumed by other things that you simply do not “have the time” for meaningful Bible study? Or, perhaps you are just lukewarm in your desire to learn about God’s word.

In John 1, Jesus is identified as being the “Word.” Hebrews 1:1-3 also says that God has spoken to us through His Son. In John 12:48, Jesus said that the word which He spoke would judge you in the Last Day. So, if Jesus was spending the week with you, how interested would you be in learning about the will of God? Would you be asking Jesus meaningful questions so that you would be able to gain a better understanding of God’s will? Or, would you only ask Jesus questions to justify yourself or trap Him? Would you even want to hear the things He had to say about the will of God? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be more interested in learning God’s word?

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

How committed are you to attending the assemblies of the local church you have joined yourself to? In Hebrews 10:24-25, God instructs you, “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” If Jesus was spending the week with you, would you do everything within your ability to attend all the assemblies of the local church

so that you could worship with Him? Or, would you neglect to assemble? Would you be comfortable taking Jesus with you wherever you went rather than assembling (i.e. a sporting event, to work unnecessary overtime, to a friend's house, to stay home and watch television, etc.)? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be more committed to faithfully assembling with the local church during all the assemblies?

How thoughtful are you regarding the assemblies of the local church? Do you give prior thought to the seriousness involved in worshipping God with your brethren? If Jesus was with you, would you neglect to show up for the Bible studies offered by the local church? Would you habitually oversleep or arrive late? Would you rush out early without there being some emergency? Would you choose to stay up late the night before and make it difficult to stay awake during the assemblies? Would you wear just anything to the assemblies? Or, if Jesus was coming to the assemblies with you, would you be very thoughtful in every aspect of your worship? Would you demonstrate that you were truly glad to worship God and express reverence to God in every aspect of your conduct (see Psalm 122:1)? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be more thoughtful in attending the assemblies of the local church?

Would Your Priorities Be Different?

Whenever Jesus was living on this earth, He taught about priorities and about the place God must have in your life in order for you to be pleasing to Him. For instance, Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24). Later, He commanded, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). So, if Jesus spent the week with you, would your priorities be different?

Would your focus be different?

Where is your focus, normally? Jesus said there are only two options. In Matthew 6:19-20, Jesus said that your focus can be on earthly things (earthly treasures). But, He warned that these earthly treasures are only temporary. They are often stolen. They rust. They decay. Ultimately, they are taken away from you when you die (see Luke 12:13-21). Or, your focus can be on heavenly things (spiritual treasures). These are eternal. No one can steal them away from you. They will not rust. They will not decay. And, they will survive physical death (see Revelation 14:13). Is your focus normally on the temporary things of this life that please your fleshly desires – or is it on accomplishing the will of God? Jesus said you can tell where your focus is by locating your treasures (Matthew 6:21).

Would your focus in life be different during the week Jesus spent with you? Would you be more careful to evaluate what God wants rather than just do whatever most appeals to yourself? Would you ask Him what He wanted you to do while He was with you? Would the decisions that you make throughout the week be focused on the physical – or the spiritual? If Jesus spent the week with you, would the focus of your life be different?

Would you spend your time differently?

Whenever Jesus lived on this earth, He recognized the importance of spending time wisely. In John 9:4, Jesus said, "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work." He recognized that He only had a limited amount of time to accomplish the mission the Father had given Him to do. Similarly, you also have a limited amount of time during the course of your life. Therefore, God wants you to be making the best use of that time in order to best accomplish His purposes (Ephesians 5:15-16).

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, surfing the internet, reading earthly books, playing video games, etc.? Would you

spend more time with your family? Would you spend more time worshiping God? Would you spend more time trying to teach the lost? Would you spend more time trying to help and encourage others? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you spend your time differently?

Would you spend your money differently?

While Jesus lived on this earth, He warned about the dangers of riches. After a rich young ruler wanted to inherit eternal life, Jesus told him to sell all that he had and give it to the poor. However, this man left Jesus sorrowful – because he was very rich (Luke 18:18-23). After this encounter, Jesus said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God” (Luke 18:24-25). Jesus certainly understood that earthly riches are dangerous and can easily distract people from living in the way that is pleasing to Him.

Therefore, how would you be spending your money during the week Jesus was living with you? Would you be spending money on selfish, extravagant, and temporary things? Would you be wasteful with your money? Or, would you determine to use your money to glorify Jesus Christ that week and make a *real* and *lasting* impact on this world? Would you use your money to tell other people about Him? Would you use your money to help those who are in need? Would you contribute more to the work of the local church? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you spend your money differently?

Would Your Character Be Different?

While Jesus lived on this earth, His character was perfect. Therefore, He has left you the perfect example of how you should conduct your life. 1 Peter 2:21 demonstrates that Jesus Christ has left you an example, “that you should follow His steps.” This certainly includes the character traits we can see in

Him. So, if Jesus spent the week with you, would your character be different?

Would you be more committed to love?

Jesus Christ has demonstrated the perfect commitment to love. Jesus said, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (John 15:13). Jesus laid down His life for you so that you could be saved from the consequences of your sins.

How committed to love would you be if Jesus spent the week with you? Would you demonstrate true love for God by keeping God’s commandments in every area of your life – and not considering His commandments to be burdensome (see John 14:15 and 1 John 5:3)? Would you demonstrate true love for others by acting in their best interests above acting on behalf of selfish desires? Would you demonstrate the kind of true love that is identified in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be more committed to love?

Would you be more committed to kindness and compassion?

Jesus Christ demonstrated perfect kindness and compassion toward others. For instance, whenever Jesus saw a great multitude of people, “He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick” (Matthew 14:14). Then, whenever these people needed something to eat, Jesus did what was within His ability to do to and gave them something to eat (see Matthew 14:15-21). Ultimately, Jesus showed His kindness and compassion toward all people *spiritually* by giving His life so that we could have the opportunity to be saved!

How committed to showing kindness and compassion would you be if Jesus spent the week with you? Would you treat people with greater civility? Would you consider the feelings of others? Would you count others as more significant than yourself (Philippians 2:1-4)? Would you have compassion on those who needed something to eat, a place to sleep, or clothes to wear? Would you have compassion on those who were lonely and needed someone to visit them (i.e. the sick, the widowed, the orphans, those in prison)? Would you have

compassion on those who were not living according to God's word so much that you would actually teach them what the Bible says (2 Timothy 2:24-26)? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be more committed to showing kindness and compassion?

Would you be more committed to humility?

Jesus was the most humble person who ever walked this earth. Philippians 2:5-8 says, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." Even though Jesus Christ was (and is) God, He did not cling to that so much that it prevented Him from leaving Heaven to come to this earth and die. Instead, He humbled Himself so much that He was willing to do anything and everything the Father desired.

If Jesus spent the week with you, how important would you treat yourself? Would you live your life like you are the most important thing about life? Would you refuse to do anything that you felt was "beneath" your dignity? Or, would you be willing to do anything and everything Jesus asked you to do – even if it meant putting your own selfish ambitions and pride aside? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be more committed to humility?

Would you be more committed to patience?

Jesus demonstrated true patience during the course of His life on earth. Even though Jesus committed no sin during the course of His life, He still suffered because of the sinful conduct of others. Yet, "when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously" (1 Peter 2:23). Even though many things during Jesus' life did not happen the way that Jesus would have preferred they happen, Jesus never wavered from doing the Father's will.

If Jesus spent the week with you, how committed to doing the Father's will would you be – even when things did not go your way? Whenever someone would speak evil about you, would you speak evil about them in order to harm them? Whenever someone would be unkind to you, would you respond in an unkind way? Would you become weary in doing good to the point that you would stop doing the good you should be doing? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be more committed to patience?

Would you be more committed to joy?

Despite all the evil Jesus endured during the course of His lifetime in fulfilling the will of the Heavenly Father, He lived a life of true joy. Hebrews 12:2 speaks concerning how that for the "joy that was set before Him" He "endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Similarly, He desired for those who would follow Him to live joyful lives. John 15:11 says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."

If Jesus spent a week with you, would you be happy? Would you be happy that He was in your life? Would you be happy that you had the privilege of serving Him for that week? Or, would you begrudge the way you would feel compelled to conduct your life during that week – eagerly waiting for the day Jesus left, so that you could live the way you actually want to live? Would you lose your joy whenever bad things happen to you in your life that week? Would you have such a joy that it would be contagious to others? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be more committed to joy?

Would you be more committed to self-control?

Jesus' earthly life was a constant manifestation of self-control. He repeatedly demonstrated that He was more concerned about being obedient to the Father's will and accomplishing His purposes than He was about fulfilling His own earthly desires. Hebrews 4:15, for instance, says that Jesus was tempted in all of the same ways you are tempted in. Only, He did not give in to those temptations and violate God's will.

Therefore, every time He was tempted, He exercised self-control! Matthew 4:1-11 records three examples of how Jesus responded to temptations in this way.

If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be fully committed to exercising self-control? Would you seek to deny yourself of anything and everything that was contrary to the will of God? Would you be willing to sacrifice your own pleasures, riches, and relationships in order to follow Jesus Christ (see Luke 14:25-33)? Would you control your thoughts? Would you control your words? Would you control the things that you did to other people? Would you bring all of your actions into subjection to the will of God? Or, would you allow your own earthly desires to supersede the desires of God? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be more committed to exercising self-control?

Would you be more committed to forgiveness?

Jesus' primary mission in coming to this earth and giving His life on the cross was to bring about the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:28). He was committed to forgiving other people of the things they had done that was contrary to God's ways and against Him. While He lived on this earth, He forgave many people. Then, as Jesus was hanging on the cross and about to die, Jesus demonstrated His forgiving attitude when He prayed to His Father: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34). But, Jesus did not just *demonstrate* this kind of forgiving attitude Himself. He also taught that the Father will not forgive those who do not forgive others (i.e. Matthew 18:35).

If Jesus spent the week with you, would He see that you are committed to forgiving those who do wrong against you? Would He see that you overcome your own hurt by letting go of the sin that has been corrected? Would He see that you are unwilling to allow the sinful actions of others hinder you from following the Lord? Would He see that you have compassion on those who need your forgiveness and mercy? Or, would He see that you hold grudges? Would He see that you treat other people with contempt because of the sins they have committed against you (even though they have repented of those

sins)? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be more committed to forgiveness?

Would Your Commitment To Holiness Be Different?

While Jesus lived on this earth, He kept Himself perfectly pure. As we have already seen, He did not sin – even though He was tempted in the same ways we are tempted (Hebrews 4:15). The life that Jesus lived was as different from the sinful ways of this world as light is different from darkness – and was hated by the world as a result (John 3:19-20; John 15:18-21). Those who are disciples of Jesus Christ are also expected to live in this kind of holy way that is separated from everything that is evil (see 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 and 1 Peter 1:15-16). So, if Jesus spent a week with you, would your commitment to holiness be different?

Would you speak the same way you usually speak?

There are certain kinds of speech that God's holy people (saints) are to be using and certain kinds they are not to be using. For instance, Ephesians 4-5 says that you must not lie (4:25). No "corrupt word" is to proceed from your mouth (4:29). All "evil speaking" is to be put away from your life (4:32). Filthiness, foolish talking, and coarse jesting are all "not fitting" for you (5:3-4). Instead, you must "speak truth" (4:25), speak that which is "good for necessary edification" (4:29), be kind (4:32), and give thanks (5:4). Of course, this is just a sample of Bible teaching on the subject. But, this quickly covers a lot of territory about the words you use.

So, if Jesus spent the week with you, would He hear you tear other people down? Would He hear you engage in gossip? Would He hear you tell dirty and sinful jokes. Would He hear you use God's holy name in vain? Would He hear you use offensive language and profanity? Would He hear you use euphemisms and slang? Or, would He hear you only speak things that would glorify God and help other

people serve Him? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you speak the same way you usually speak?

Would you dress the same way you usually dress?

God's word teaches you about God's standard for clothing. For instance, 1 Timothy 2:9-10 says, "in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works." While this is not the only passage on the subject, this passage does teach that God has a standard for clothing and that your clothing will either profess worldliness or godliness. I believe (from other passages of Scripture) that God demonstrates His approval for clothing that reaches (minimally) from the neck to the knees and disapproves anything less (see Genesis 3:7, 21 and Exodus 28:42).

So, if Jesus spent the week with you, how would you be dressing yourself? If you are a man, would you be going shirtless? Would you be wearing tight fitting clothing? Would you wear shorts that reveal your thigh (i.e. when you sit down)? Would you wear shirts printed with sayings or pictures that are not holy? If you are woman, would you wear a bathing suit (two piece or one piece)? Would you wear a low-cut blouse? Would you wear a short skirt or short shorts (that reveals any part of your thigh when you stand or when you sit)? Would you wear tight, form-fitting clothing? Would you wear clothing that is see-through? Would you wear a strapless top or a top that has very thin straps? Or, would you take precautions to make sure that there is nothing unholy about your clothing? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you dress the same way you usually dress?

Would you keep company with the same people you usually keep company with?

God's word contains a number of warnings about the people you keep company with. For instance, 1 Corinthians 15:33 says, "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.'" While Jesus did eat and spend time with sinners (i.e.

Zacchaeus, Luke 19:7), Jesus certainly never went along with their sinful ways. Furthermore, the reason for this association was not to "have a good time" with them. Instead, it was so that they could be taught and saved. Jesus said, "for the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

If Jesus spent the week with you, who would you keep close company with? Would you have an evening of recreation with people who were using profanity, taking God's name in vain, telling dirty jokes, etc. Would you demonstrate your close companionship with those who were engaging in sinful recreational activities? Would you spend time willingly with people who were influencing you to do things that are contrary to the will of God? Or, would you want to demonstrate your close companionship with those who love the Lord and want to follow His teachings – while using any other relationships to teach those who are lost? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you keep company with the same people you usually keep company with?

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

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 instructs you: "Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil." Since God is completely holy, you must put everything in your life to the test. This test is performed by using the word of God. You must cling closely to that which is good (right in God's sight). Then, you must abstain from (get away from) everything that is evil (not according to God's standard of right). The entertainment and recreation you engage in is certainly subject to this. After all, whenever you engage in any kind of entertainment or recreation, you are *choosing* to participate in it.

If Jesus spent the week with you, what kind of entertainment and recreation would you participate in? What television programs would you watch? What internet sites would you visit? What games would you play? What places would you go? Would you watch television programs and movies with Jesus in which filthy language, immodest dress, or sexual sins were being displayed? Would you play

video games with Jesus that focus on killing or breaking the law? Would you take Him to places where immodest dress is known to abound (i.e. public beaches)? Would you encourage Him to engage in mixed swimming? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you enjoy the same entertainment/recreation you usually enjoy?

Would you practice the same habits you usually practice?

Every person in this world has habits. Some of these habits are pleasing to God and can help you to serve Him. However, there are many habits that are contrary to His will and can result in your committing sin. Again, 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 is applicable in that you must put all of your habits to the test (testing them by the teachings of God's word), holding fast to those habits that are in harmony with the teachings of Scripture, and abstaining from those habits that are contrary to the teachings of Scripture.

If Jesus spent the week with you, what habits would you continue? What habits would you try to break? Would you smoke cigarettes in front of Jesus? Would you rub snuff or chew tobacco with Jesus in the same room? Would you drink alcoholic beverages with Jesus present? Would you look at pornography if Jesus could see what you were looking at? Would you use drugs? Would you be a glutton? Would you be lazy? Would you procrastinate doing the things He wants you to do? Or, would you work diligently to practice habits that would promote holiness? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you practice the same habits you usually practice?

Would Your Service To God Be Different?

Jesus Christ expects and deserves that you serve Him with your whole being. Titus 2:14 indicates that Jesus Christ gave Himself for you so that He could purify you from every sin and so that you would be "zealous for good works." To be zealous is to be "on fire" to serve Him. In Revelation 3:15-16, Jesus condemned the practice of those who were only "lukewarm" in their service to Him. These individuals were not "on fire" to do the things He wanted them to be doing. Then, Jesus said that He

would "vomit" these lukewarm people out of His mouth. Clearly, Jesus wants your complete devotion. So, if Jesus spent the week with you, would your service to God be different?

Would you speak about Jesus more frequently?

Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He left His disciples with the responsibility to take His saving message of the gospel into all the world (see Mark 16:15-16). God's expectation (as demonstrated repeatedly in the Scriptures) is that God's people would be responsible for taking His saving message to those who need to hear it. While the apostles and disciples in the first century accomplished this work, this work continues needing to be accomplished today – as there is a new generation who needs to hear the saving message of the gospel. And, it is your work (in part) to tell them (see 2 Timothy 2:24-26)!

If Jesus spent the week with you, how often would you tell people about Him? Would you introduce Him to all your friends and relatives? Would you tell your co-workers, your neighbors, and classmates about Him? Would you take Him with you every place you would go and introduce Him to as many people as you could? Would you be ashamed to tell people about Him – if He was standing right beside of you? Would you be unwilling to tell others how He died for them so that they could be saved from their sins? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you speak about Jesus more frequently?

Would you find more time to serve others?

During Jesus' lifetime, He demonstrated the importance of serving others. Even though He was the Son of God, He demonstrated that He was truly willing to serve other people, saying that He did not come to be served but to serve (see Matthew 20:28). One example of Jesus' determination to serve is found in John 13:1-17. In this passage, Jesus is seen as performing the lowly job of washing the feet of others. And, after He had performed this task, He said, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:14-15).

If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be willing to serve other people? If you received a phone call from someone who needed help (and you were able to help), would you do what you could do? If you knew of a need that existed, would you be willing to take care of that need – even if no one asked you to help? If you knew that an unpleasant job needed to be done, would you volunteer to do the work? Would there be any task that you would view “below” your dignity? Would you always be “too busy” to help anyone? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you find more time to serve others?

Would you visit the discouraged and lonely more frequently?

In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus provides a glimpse into the final Judgment scene. In the text, Jesus speaks of all people who have lived being divided as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. All people, therefore, will be divided into one of two categories: The righteous and the unrighteous. Those who are judged to have been righteous will spend eternity in Heaven, while those who are unrighteous will spend eternity in Hell. However, I want you to specifically consider that Jesus speaks of those who are righteous as having visited the sick and those in prison. Additionally, James 1:27 says, “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

If Jesus spent the week with you, would you find the time to visit those widows who were lonely? Would you travel to the hospital to see someone who is sick to brighten their days and lift their spirits? Would you see how you could serve someone who was sick and in need of help? Would you visit someone who is in prison if you had the opportunity and encourage him/her to follow Jesus? Would you seek to help those who are orphans? Would you keep your eyes open for these opportunities? Or, would you be “too busy” and consumed by other interests to have the time to visit and help such people? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you visit the discouraged and lonely more frequently?

Would you be more committed to encouraging your brethren?

Those who are Christians have the responsibility to be an encouragement to their Christian brothers and sisters. For instance, Hebrews 3:12-13 says, “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

If Jesus spent the week with you, would you attempt to encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ? Would you want to encourage them to live in the way that is pleasing to God? Would you find the time to have some of your brethren into your home and provide an opportunity for them to learn from Jesus? Would you be interested in bearing their burdens? Would you encourage them to resist the devil? If Jesus spent the week with you, would you be more committed to encouraging your brethren?

Conclusion

Of course, Jesus is not going to spend the week with you *physically*. He is not going to knock on your front door. He is not going to stay in your guest bedroom. He is not going to dine with you at your table. He is not going to go to your place of work. He is not going to attend the assemblies of the local church with you. He is not going to engage in recreational activities with you. At least, He is not going to do these things *physically*.

However, the Scriptures are clear that He does see everything you do, know everything you think, and hear everything you say – just as if He was right beside of you! Proverbs 15:3 says, “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.” Furthermore, Hebrews 4:13 says, “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

Please recognize, then, that if you would do something differently in your life if Jesus spent the

week with you, you should always be different – because He is always watching and listening! There is something wrong, if you would not live your life the same way if Jesus was with you. Therefore, as you make decisions throughout your daily life, evaluate: What would you do if Jesus was spending the week with you.

Finally, recognize that you can learn from Him today – just as if He was sitting across the dining room table from you. You learn from Him in the pages of God’s word. He is the way, the truth, and the life – and the only way to the Father (John 14:6). But, you must determine to listen to and obey what He says. Therefore, listen to Him explain His great love and concern for your soul and determine to live your life according to God’s will so that you can live eternally with Him in Heaven one Day. He is standing at your door and knocking. Will you let Him into your life and always give Him complete control over it?

Study Questions

What would your initial reaction be if Jesus came to your door and wanted to spend the week with you? How different would you live your life that week?

1. Would Your Worship Be Different?

Would you be more devoted to praising God?

Would you be more thankful?

Would you be more interested in learning God’s word?

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

2. Would Your Priorities Be Different?

Would your focus be different?

Would you spend your time differently?

Would you spend your money differently?

3. Would Your Character Be Different?

Would you be more committed to love?

Would you be more committed to kindness and compassion?

Would you be more committed to humility?

Would you be more committed to patience?

Would you be more committed to joy?

Would you be more committed to self-control?

Would you be more committed to forgiveness?

Would you be more committed to encouraging your brethren?

4. Would Your Commitment To Holiness Be Different?

Would you speak the same way you usually speak?

Would you dress the same way you usually dress?

Would you keep company with the same people you usually keep company with?

Would you enjoy in the same entertainment/recreation you usually enjoy?

Would you practice the same habits you usually practice?

5. Would Your Service To God Be Different?

Would you speak about Jesus more frequently?

Would you find more time to serve others?

Would you visit the discouraged and lonely more frequently?