

# **A Visit to the House of Nazareth**

*Excerpts from book of Fr. P. Ribes, s.j. "To be Like Jesus"  
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## **Intent of this exercise.**

- ✓ *To imbibe the Values the Holy Family lived by*
- ✓ *To make our family life, more like the one of Nazareth*
- ✓ *To make our homes, simpler, loving and welcoming.*

## **Preparation:**

- Spend some time in silence before God.
- Ask for help to be more like Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
- In fantasy let us pay a visit to the Holy Family.

## **Compare:**

**The Holy Family's style of life to yours**

**Their behaviour to yours**

**Their values to yours**

## **Look:**

### **What do you see?**

Their house: poor, rich, posh, simple, gadgets, furnishings, tidiness, welcoming,  
**what about yours?**

The persons: Jesus, Mary and Joseph: happy, unhappy, their looks, their attire,  
**What about you?**

Their behaviour: kind, meek, understanding, angry, peaceful, polite, etc.  
**What about yours?**

Their prayer life: family prayers, personal prayer life, union with God.  
**What about yours?**

## **Listen:**

**What do you hear?**

What is the subject matter of their conversation?

**What about yours?**

How do they talk to each other?

**What about you?**

How do they listen to each other?

**What about you?**

How do they talk and deal with their neighbours?

**What about you?**

How do they speak about others? Any gossips and criticisms

**What about you?**

**Watch:**

**What do you do?**

House work

**What about you?**

Earning their livelihood the hard way.

**What about you?**

Helping each other.

**What about you?**

How do they share their goods with the needy?

**What about you?**

How do they treat their guests, the poor, and the needy and unwanted people?

**What about you?**

What T.V. programs they watch? What books and magazines they read.

**What about you?**

How do they spend their money?

**What about you?**

**What have you learned from your visit to Nazareth?**

**How will you imitate Jesus, Joseph and Mary**

## **What will you do?**

- 1.** Simplicity of life and Frugality.
- 2.** Hard work and Thrift.
- 3.** Orderliness and wellbeing.
- 4.** Unity, mutual love and acceptance.
- 5.** Peace and Joy.
- 6.** Prayer life.
- 7.** Hospitality.
- 8.** Service to their neighbours and others.
- 9.** Respect for all people.
- 10.** Politeness and courtesy.
- 11.** Absence of criticism and gossip.
- 12.** Clean speech.
- 13.** Charity and concern for others