

Jesus' Vocation

*Taken from the book of Fr. P. Ribes, s.j. "To be Like Jesus"
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Jesus a Model for those who wish to follow their Vocation in Life

Introduction:

- ✓ *These jottings are based on a reflection of the **sixth word** of Jesus on the cross "It is accomplished"*
- ✓ *We consider Jesus as the "model" and "exemplar" of one who fulfils and accomplishes his life "vocation" in the most perfect way.*
- ✓ *We mean by "Jesus' Vocation" the **Task/Work/Call/Job** Jesus was given by his Heavenly Father during his sojourn on earth.*

Intent of this notes:

- ✓ *To help us realize that by living up our vocation we shall find meaning and fulfilment in life.*
- ✓ *To spur us on to search for and discern our task or vocation in life.*
- ✓ *To encourage us to imitate Jesus in perfectly living our lives according to our Heavenly Father's will.*

Target Audience:

- ✓ *Primarily, for young men and women.*
- ✓ *Good and generous Christian people in general.*

Use of this exercise.

- *For Personal reflection and meditation on how do we live up our vocation?*
- *For group prayer sessions*
- *For talks and events on Vocation promotion.*

Inroductory Prayer

Remain for a while in prayerful silence asking God our Father for the following graces:

- *To understand what is meant by "Christian Vocation".*
- *To discern the vocation given to us by God whilst we are on earth.*
- *To give us strength and generosity to do His will in the most perfect way as Jesus did.*

THE SIXTH WORD JESUS UTTERED WHILE HANGING FROM THE CROSS

It's Done! It's Accomplished!

Read the following script, slowly and prayerfully.

As Jesus hanged from the Cross, the Chief Priests mocked him. Also those passing by, wagging their heads, derided him saying: “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the son of God, come down from the cross”.

From the sixth hour, there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And Jesus, knowing that all was finished, said: “I am thirsty.” A bowl of vinegar stood there, so they put a sponge soaked in vinegar on a rod and held it to his mouth.

After that, Jesus closed his eyes, rested his chin on his chest and prayerfully, in the presence of his heavenly Father, remembered the history of his life, yes, from his birth to crucifixion. He whispered: It’s accomplished!

“Father, dear Father, you wanted me to be the suffering Saviour, the ‘Lamb of God’ to be sacrificed for the salvation of the world. Yes, father, it was your will, it was my vocation. I, lovingly, accepted it. It’s accomplished!

Father, you wished me to be born in a stable in a cold December night, helpless, powerless, unnoticed and rejected. Yes, Father, it was your will! It was done! It’s accomplished!

You allowed me to be hated and persecuted even at my birth. As a child I tasted the bitter bread of the exile away from the land of my birth. It was your will. It’s accomplished!

Father, you wanted me to spend 30 years of my life at Nazareth, in an obscure hamlet, doing the humble job of a village carpenter. Yes, father, it was your will. I did it. It’s accomplished!

Father, you called me go to the Jordan to humbly receive the Baptism of John among sinners and outcasts. It was you will, yes Father I accepted it. It’s accomplished!

There, the skies opened and you clearly manifested to me what my vocation was!

- I had been sent to preach the good news to the poor.
- To proclaim liberty to captives.
- To give sight to the blind.
- To set the oppressed free.
- To bring your salvation to all.
- To lay down my life that the world may live.

Yes, Father dear, I accepted it all with all my heart! It was your call, my task, my vocation! I lived up to it. It’s accomplished! I did it. I am pleased; I am delighted. My heart is at rest!”

By now, Jesus was growing weaker and weaker. He was gasping, his body quivering. He was overwhelmed, both with suffering and satisfaction. He had done his Father's will. He had fulfilled his vocation.

With belaboured breath now, his face contorted with pain, yet in full command, Jesus raised his eyes to his heavenly Father and spoke again:

“Beloved Father, you wanted me to go through the agony of the garden, the sweating of blood, being spat upon, the flogging at the pillar, the crowning of thorns. Yes, Father, it's done. It's accomplished!

Falling time and again, Father, you wanted me to carry the cross to Calvary jeered at, mocked, insulted and cursed by the crowds. You willed that I should be stripped naked and crucified, nailed to the cross, suspended between heaven and earth. Yes, Father, it's done!! It's accomplished!!

Now father I am broken. Shattered, yet not conquered, alone yet not lonely. I have done your will. Yes, Father, I accomplished all I was called to do. Yes, to die so that all may live

Now, in my agony and pain, a cry of joy is welling up from my heart! Farewell Father! **It's accomplished: Your will is done!** **Into your hands, Oh, Father, I entrust myself!”**

Reflection **Jesus' Vocation and Our Vocation**

1. Did Jesus have a vocation?
2. What do we understand by the word 'vocation'?
3. What was the vocation of Jesus? Describe it.
4. Who gave it to him?
5. For what purpose?
6. How did He live up to it?
7. What was the outcome of his living up to his vocation?
 - For himself?
 - For us?
 - For the World?
8. Do all of us have a vocation? What? Why?
9. How to discern and find out which is our vocation in life?
10. How to live up to it? Explain.
11. What will be the consequences of living up to our call?
 - For each one of us in particular?
 - And for the world at large?

CLOSURE

Personal Reflection

Quietly reflect. on the following questions:

1. In the “here-and-now” of your life, what is God asking you to do?
2. Are you ready for it?
3. What are your fears and resistances? Why?
4. What will you do to overcome them?
5. In your future life is God asking you to take some special vocation, namely any specific state of life- task-work-service-. What is it?
6. Are you prepared to carry out that special call or vocation? If not, why?
7. What are your fears and misgivings?
8. What are the blocks or obstacles on the way to the fulfilment your future vocation?
9. What practical steps will you take?

Personal Prayer

- Pray to God for the strength to carry out his will as Jesus did.
- Meditate on the prayer of Jesus in the Garden: “Not my will, but yours be done!” (Mt 26/39-43; Lk 22/41-42)
- Ask Him to help you to “accomplish” your vocation all through life.

Jot down”

After your Reflections and Prayer, write a summary of your thoughts and feelings.