

“OH, GOD, COULD IT BE POSSIBLE”?

SEEING GOD IN OTHERS.

Note

- ✓ *These jottings were prepared for youngsters and youth sessions*
- ✓ *They are based on the story. “OH, God could it be possible?”*
- ✓ *Worship and the practice of any religion has down-to-earth social consequences*

You can CHECK also in our notes the event entitled ARTABAN. That is a parallel session based on on the beautiful story of Henry VanDick, “The Fourth Wise Man”

Purpose of these notes:

- ✓ *To see how our Christian faith is socially oriented.*
- ✓ *To explain what we mean by “Christian Charity”*
- ✓ *To be aware that God continually comes to us ‘in human form’.*
- ✓ *To realize that there is no other way to serve Christ but serving our brothers and sisters.*
- ✓ *To open our eyes to the inconsistencies between the way we profess our faith and the one we practice it.*

Uses of these notes:

- ✓ *For talks on Christian Charity.*
- ✓ *For personal reflection, meditation and self-examination.*
- ✓ *For recollections.*

Introductory Session:

- *Quite down. Relaxation exercises.*
- *Introductory prayer.*
- *Singing a hymn or two.*

Starter: “OH, GOD, COULD IT BE POSSIBLE”?

Narrator: Mrs. Rao was an extra-ordinarily religious minded person. She spent hours on end absorbed in prayer. Her only longing was to see God. One day in the depths of her praying heart, she heard a voice.

Voice: Today, today itself, I’ll come to your house. You will have the joy to see me and speak with me.

Narrator: Overflowing with joy, she muttered to herself:

Mrs. Rao: Oh! How happy I am! Incredible! God coming to my house! Well, he has to find my house in perfect order. I'll clean it, I'll decorate it. It has to look spick and span. I want to welcome Him and honor Him as he deserves.

Narrator: There was a leaky tap in the sink. Immediately, she called in the plumber

Mrs. Rao: Please, Gopal, hurry up and repair this tap as fast as you can. I am expecting a very, very important visitor today. I have to honor him in my home.

Narrator: Gopal being in too great a hurry to finish the job snatched the water pipe in the process of repairing it. The whole house got flooded and became a perfect mess. Mrs. Rao was furious. She began insulting the poor plumber.

Mrs. Rao: You dumb idiot! Good for nothing! See what you have done! How can I receive my visitor like this? Now finish your work quickly and be gone, you stupid and clumsy man!

Narrator: As soon as Gopal left, as Mrs. Rao was mopping the floor furiously, the doorbell rang! Mrs. Rao missed one of her heartbeats. Thanks be to God, it was only Mrs. Gaitonde, a very inquisitive neighbor of hers. Gaitonde greeted her:

Gaitonde: Good morning Mrs. Rao. I just heard from the plumber that you are getting ready for a very important visitor. May I help you in your work? Later on, I can, even; give you a hand to entertain your guest.

Mrs. Rao: No! Not at all! Mrs. Gaitonde, I can manage my work alone pretty well. I do not need anybody to entertain my guests; surely not you! Besides I do not like anyone to poke his nose in my affairs.

Narrator: Mrs. Gaitonde was highly offended at the Mrs. Rao's words. She shouted::

Gaitonde: Who do you think you are, Mrs. Rao? I just came to help you. How dare you insult me? Ungrateful!

Mrs. Rao: Shut up! You impertinent woman! Get out, yes, out of my house, quick!

Narrator: A few minutes later, again someone knocked at the door. In a panic Mrs. Rao said:

Mrs. Rao: Oh! My! Imagine the Lord coming now! What a shame that my house is not ready for God!

Narrator: It wasn't the Lord. It was a salesman. Softly, he said:

Salesman: Madam, a little bird whispered in my ear that a very important man is about to come to your house. I sell beautiful carpets. I can sell you one that will make your house look grand and palatial. Your guest will be greatly honored.

Mrs. Rao: I don't care for your carpets. Get going! . Be lost! Leave me in peace!

Salesman: But, Madam, I assure you, you will never for a moment regret having bought a carpet like this from me.

Mrs. Rao: Shut your trap, you blathering charlatan! Leave me alone! Get out of my house!

Narrator: And without more ado, angrily, she banged the door with a loud noise to the unfortunate salesman.

Narrator: Again the doorbell rang with insistence.

Mrs. Rao: Will it be the Lord? Oh goodness!

Narrator: It was Mrs. Pires, her good and loving neighbor. She was sobbing

Mrs. Pires: Please, Please, Mrs. Rao, I need your help! My little Anil met with an accident and he has been rushed to the hospital. I am so upset. I haven't the courage to go alone. Please, come with me to the hospital!

Mrs. Rao: I am, so sorry, Mrs. Pires, But today, I have to say no. I can't come. I am just waiting for a very important visitor. Excuse me. I can't. I can't

Narrator: And so Mrs. Rao closed the door of her house and shut Mrs. Pires and her little Anil off her heart. In anger she complained to God.

Mrs. Rao: Oh God! What a day! Why should all these blighters come to my door precisely today! I am tired of them all!

Narrator: By evening, everything was ready. The house was tidy. It looked so welcoming and cozy! Now, Mrs. Rao was ready to receive God in her home! She sat down and said:

Mrs. Rao: Now, you come Lord. I am ready! Do come, Lord!

Narrator: The hours flowed slowly. The clock ticked on. "Click-clock", "click-clock". It was already 11.00 p.m.

Mrs. Rao: Lord, why do you delay so much to come to my house Come oh God! Do come! I long for you. I love you. Come soon, come soon, my God!

Narrator: "Tick-tock, tick-tock, tick-tock...every tick, at every sound she thought it was the Lord. "Click-clock.... click-clock... click-clock....'Finally, " Grrrr.....Grrr..". The clock struck 12 midnight!

Narrator: Mrs. Rao broke into tears. In half sobs she muttered:

Mrs. Rao: Oh God! Could it be possible? Why have you not come to my house today?! Why? Why?

POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. Did Mrs Rao have a reason to be sad and disappointed? Why?
2. Explain what the meaning of the words: “Today, I’ll come to your house” might have been?
3. Did Christ really visit Mrs. Rao that day? How?
4. Mention some Gospel texts that convey the message of Mrs. Rao’s story?
5. What does Jesus tell us through them? In what way can we, in our day-to-day life, meet Christ and serve him?
6. Compile a list of occasions where we can serve Christ in our daily life. Arrange them in order of priority – from most important to less important.
7. Do we – Christians as a whole – truly practice the Gospel of Jesus? What makes you say so?
8. Have you ever done anything worthwhile for Christ? What is it? Give instances.
9. Have you ever-received Christ in your home? Have you visited him, or fed Him. or clothed Him? When and how?

IDEAS FOR AN INPUT

- The best way to serve Christ is to serve our neighbors, especially those in need.
- Insist on the fact that Christianity is not a religion of rituals only, or of formulae and intellectual abstractions (*although sometimes we make it look so*) **but mainly and basically a religion of personal love relationships between:**
Firstly and foremost, between **Christ’s disciple** (*the individual Christian*) **and Christ**,
Secondly, as corollary, in a fellowship of faith and love **between the disciples themselves**,
Finally, between the disciples as a body - namely, the Church - with the whole human kind. All men and women made by God ,Our Creator, to his own image, have a unique origin and destiny, GOD AS OUR COMMON LOVING FATHER.
- The Church and all her members by their very nature are meant to be the servants of the world, of the entire humanity
- Read and forcefully, comment on the Parable of the Last Judgment. (Cfr. Mt. 25/31-46).
- Our final relationship with Christ will be decided on the way we relate to others.

PERSONAL EXAMINATION.

Reflections On Our Paradoxical Behavior. Why should it so?

- We say that we are willing to serve Christ , but we are reluctant to serve our people at home.
- We ask Jesus for pardon, but, often enough, we are not prepared to forgive others.

- We say that we love Christ poor, yet, in actual fact, we avoid the poor and even may feel disgust for them.
- We honor Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament, but when we go home, we may ill-treat and even manhandle our servants and those under us.
- We call Christ our brother, yet we make fun of our brothers and sisters, we criticize them and we may even tear their reputation to pieces.
- We feel great compassion for the suffering Christ in the Passion but we shun to sickbed and deathbed of those near us.
- Our hearts bleed for Christ scourging at the pillar – yet we will not lift a finger to mitigate the scourges of injustice and oppression.
- We sympathize with Christ laboring under the weight of the cross but we may bend the backs of our servants and employees and take advantage of them, Etc...

PERSONAL PRAYER AND PERSONALIZATION:

- Spend time in personal prayer and introspection.
- Read and mediate again on Mt. 25/31-46
- In all honesty try to discover the many inconsistencies obtaining in the practice of your faith.
- Say sorry to Jesus for them.
- Beg from God to be able: To live up to the Jesus' teachings of love and service and always to serve him in others
- Ask yourself: What shall I do from today? and do it!

Gospel Texts suitable for this prayer.

1 Jn. 2/7-11	The New commandment
1 Jn. 3/11/18	Love one another
James 2/14-20	Faith in actions
Mt. 10/40-42	Whoever gives even a drink of cold water will have his reward.
Mt. 18/5	whoever welcomes one such child.
Mt. 25/31-46	Last Judgment

Hymns recommended for this prayer

Whatsoever you do.
 When I needed a neighbor.
 Love it was.
 In God's family.
 Bind us together.
 The world stands in need of liberation.
 This is my commandment.

APPENDIX

Activities

In case you offer these exercise to a group, some activities may prove very effective. Here below you find a few suggestions for your activities.

Shocks and Surprises

:

Each group will prepare an activity to exemplify the lessons of the day. The activities will be based on the Last Judgment. (Mt. 25/31-46)

The activities based on the suggestions above, may be prepared in any form the participants choose: .role play, radio- play, shadow play, symbolic representation, mime, storytelling, photo-story, puppet show , etc.

Each presentation will be followed by a short evaluation and discussion.

(1) The Legend of St. Martin of Tours

Martin, a Roman soldier, pagan yet, was greatly surprised to see Christ in a dream thanking him for half- his-cloak he had given to a beggar at night shivering with_cold.

(2) A Queen in disguise:

A very charitable and loving queen was shocked to see her ministers and the rich people of her kingdom treating her so very shabbily when she went to their homes disguised as a beggar woman asking for alms. Yet, her ministers and wealthy people were still more shocked when the queen discloses her identity to them.

(3) The Shock that Confronted a Naughty Class

A whole class was shocked when the child it was taunting and poking fun at, all of a sudden, in front of all, was transfigured into the Child Jesus!

(4) The Daughter-in-law's Shock:

A woman, who hated her daughter-in-law and made her life miserable, was shocked when on appearing after death before God's judgment-seat discovered to her horror, that the presiding judge, was her own daughter-in-law.

(5) The Nurse's Surprise:

A nurse who lovingly looked after a patient till he died, was greatly surprised to discover while washing and dressing its corpse for the burial, that she was holding in her arms, the dead body of Christ, just as she had seen in a picture of Mother Mary holding the body of Jesus in her lap when it was brought down from the cross.

6) The Jailor's Surprise:

A jailor who had been kind and sympathetic to his prisoners, one day when visiting the prison cells got the surprise of his life. He found Christ locked in each and every cell of the jail.

