

# Martin and the Christmas Dinner

From the sermons of  
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Retold for children

*Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.*

Matthew 25:40

There was an old shoe cobbler; I believe it was in Germany. His name was Martin. In his spare time he used to pick up the Bible, and would read it. He read the context and the text in the Scripture, and he'd be real deeply sincere.

He was just by himself. And he said, "You know when this Christmas comes around, I'm not going to light up a Christmas tree, but I'm going to make a big dinner. I'm going to roast my lamb, get my cranberries and all my sauce and things."

He said "I'm going to set it on the table, and then will I invite Jesus to come and sit across the table from me. I want to know God's Messiah and what I can do in respect of him."

"I'm going to do all this. Then I will sit down at the table to ask for God's blessings, and thank Him for all. He has given me." And I will say, "Lord Jesus, won't You come and sit down across here, just for Christmas, and dine with me?"

So the old cobbler saved up his money to have this dinner, because he wanted to invite The King of Kings.

When Christmas came he cleaned himself real good, groomed himself and combed his hair. And he set a chair at the table for Jesus, and some more chairs around. "It might be for the apostles," he said, "if they would come in." He put the food that he cooked out on the table, and set down in his chair.

Martin bowed his head, asked for the blessing, and thanked God for the food. And he said, "Now,

Jesus, won't You come and dine with me this Christmas dinner? He started eating and watched the chair.

No one came.

He ate a little bit more and said, "Lord God, I've invited you to my home. Won't you come and be with me?" He reached over to get something more to eat, and someone knocked at the door.

He went and opened the door.

There stood an old man with stooped in shoulders. He looked a bit ragged and said, "Kind sir, I'm cold. Would you let me get warm, please?"

"Step in" said the cobbler. The old man came in and when he smelled the aroma of the food, his mouth kind of watered. He turned around and the cobbler asked, "Will you sit down? I'm expecting company, but would you not sit down and just eat with me till the company comes?"

"Thank you" said the old man, "I would be glad to". He sat down and they had dinner together. Then the old man thanked him, got up and went.

Martin turned around and said, "Lord God, why did you disappoint me? I made everything ready. I did all that I knew to do, and thought You would come in and dine with me."

He started weeping and he fell across the bed. There he laid weeping, saying "I've done everything that I thought was right, Lord. Why didn't You come and dine with me?"

Then a voice came and it reminded him on this Scripture, "Inasmuch as you have done unto the least of these little ones, you have done it unto Me."

Source: The Falling Apart of the World (Jeffersonville 1962-1216)

