

## If Jesus came to the office

Imagine if Jesus dropped by your workplace. Would you have to grab for the Roloids?

Here's what happened when Jesus visited Fred, owner of Acme Construction:

"Nice place, Fred. Looks efficient. Say, I really like the way you do trusses nowadays. Sure beats how we used to do it."

"Thanks, Lord. We try to keep up."

"So tell me, how are things going?"

"Uh, well, I have to admit my church work has lagged a bit. And I feel bad for declining that denominational board position...."

"Fred."

"Yes?"

"Relax. This isn't a test."

"Right. I guess I'm a bit jumpy; this doesn't exactly happen every day. Maybe I feel guilty for not doing more, but I don't have much energy left at the end of a day. It's all I can do to drag myself to choir practice on Thursdays. More evening meetings just don't cut it."

"I'm not wild about evening meetings myself."

"You aren't?"

"Nope. Actually, Fred, it's your best hours I want. During the day. When you're fresh."

"But, but, that's when I'm working."

"Exactly. So let's start again. How does Acme compare with, say, the company down the street? How are you different?"

"Different?"

"Yeah. Like how do you define your mission? How are you using the gifts my Dad gave you?"

"Hmmm. Well, when the Christian high school needed a new addition I put it up at cost. Didn't make a dime. And when that tornado went through the midwest I sent some of my people to help with reconstruction."

"That's great, Fred. But besides those extra things, what is it about your *daily* work that's special? How do you do business differently? And I don't mean by printing little fish on your invoices."

"Frankly, Lord, just keeping my head above water takes most of my time. It's not that easy being in business these days -- recession, unions, building codes...."

"Hey, tell me about it. I used to swing a hammer myself. I built a lot of cabinets before I preached the Sermon on the Mount."

"Oh yeah. The Sermon on the Mount. Suddenly I feel guilty again."

"Skip the guilt, Fred. I'm more interested in performance."

"Performance?"

"Yes. I'd like to know how you're modelling my kingdom in your little corner of the business world. Right here. Right now."

"Uh, Lord, can we pick this up later? Senior management is meeting at ten to handle some marketing and personnel problems. While we're doing that you can have donuts and coffee in the lunchroom, maybe read the paper."

"Actually, Fred, your meeting sounds more interesting. Mind if I sit in?"

"You mean join our meeting? I didn't know you cared about that sort of stuff."

"You'd be surprised, Fred."