Returning to the shop, he was sure that the Lord had already come and gone. He imagined what it would have been like to have Jesus visit.

As he was daydreaming, he heard a voice in his ear saying, “Martin, Martin, do you not know Me?” Then out of a corner came the tired old man. He smiled and then vanished like a cloud.

“That was Me,” the same voice said. And in the woman with the baby also appeared and then faded into the shadows.

“That was Me,” he heard again. Then Martin saw the boy who had been lost, smiling at him from the other side of the room before he also disappeared.

At that moment he realized that Jesus had visited him three times that day:

- Jesus was the old man with worn shoes.
- Jesus was the woman carrying the baby.
- Jesus was the lost boy.

Martin understood that what we do to help others is as if we do it for Jesus. That night he slept very well. He was so happy to have received Jesus’ visit in the people who came to His door.

To Martin, the shoemaker, that was the best Christmas day of all!

Read in Matthew 25:31-46 what Jesus said about what we do for others in his name, that it is like doing it for Him:

- I was hungry and you gave me something to eat
- I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink
- I was a stranger and you invited me in
- I needed clothes and you clothed me
- I was sick and you looked after me
- I was in prison and you came to visit me

‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Matthew 25:40, NIV