

## JESUS, GUEST OF MANY PEOPLE

Jesus, guest of many people—  
friend or foe, important, not....  
Trav'ling as a sandaled prophet,  
you brought, all, the words of God.  
Details of hosts' meals or houses  
written stories do not tell.  
What's remembered are your ways, Lord,  
so we're meeting you as well.

“He's arriving! How's the table?  
Is the meal prepared to eat?  
Where's my sister? 'Lord, please tell her  
to stop list'ning at your feet!’  
Then you say to me, so gently,  
that she's chosen what is best.  
With your gift of kindly challenge,  
come again to be our guest.”

“At my table! How'd it happen?  
Wouldn't God's true prophet care  
that a town's prime sinner dried his  
sobbed-on feet with her own hair?  
He said, 'Those who are forgiven  
many sins might love the more.'  
He forgave, declared her saved(!) and  
raised up questions by the score.”

“It was set that, at our leader's,  
we'd watch Jesus while we ate....  
Yet as we sought seats of honor—  
what?—he praised the humblest place!  
And he said, 'When holding banquets,  
ask the poor, the blind, the lame.'  
Though he shakes us with his teachings,  
when he's gone, things stay the same.”

“Just to see him’s what I wanted,  
so I climbed up in that tree—  
where he saw me and pronounced how  
he must stay, that day, with me!  
Why did Jesus spend his time here  
with an outcast, owned by greed?  
Still, I know: through purseless riches,  
I was ransomed, found and freed.”

Jesus, guest of many people—  
friend or foe, important, not....  
You accepted being guest, Lord,  
often leaving food for thought.  
You met hungers, powered changes,  
strengthened faith with what you gave.  
Now we open lives and houses  
to keep hearing what you say.

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Suggested tunes include:

JOYOUS LIGHT by Marty Haugen (©1987 GIA Publications, Inc.),  
PROMISE by Natalie Sleeth (©1986 Hope Publishing Co.),  
RUSTINGTON, and  
LUX EOI

The “voices” of the verses are:

Verse 2—Martha, from Luke 10:38-42  
Verse 3—Simon the Pharisee, from Luke 7:36-50  
Verse 4—Another Pharisee, from Luke 14:1, 7-14  
Verse 5—Zacchaeus, from Luke 19:1-10