

## Q&A

***Q: Fr. Alex, why was Jesus a carpenter? Did he have to work even though he was God?***

This is a very understandable question—why did He have to be a carpenter and why work to begin with? He was—and is—the Son of God after all. If He were here on earth with us right now, we might expect Him not to work at all or at least have a really huge job, like being President of the United States!

But Jesus was full of surprises, then and now. When the Jewish people were waiting for their Messiah, they were expecting a “king” in the earthly sense: lots of power, weapons, influence, awesome political force. But what they got was the Prince of Peace, someone who wasn’t worried about what job He did or worldly power, but the power of the heart—the power of the human heart to come back to God. By the way, coming back to God, when you’ve been away, is a lot more challenging than doing all the other “kingly” things I just mentioned.

Also, when you think of Him as a carpenter, remember that there probably couldn’t have been a better job for Him. What does a carpenter do? He builds! He creates! Sound familiar? That’s because Christ is the big builder in our lives—He forges the strong walls of our hearts, constructs good qualities in us, and constantly helps us renovate our souls.

Jesus came to us, and looked just like us. You could approach Him, touch His hand, talk to Him; He sneezed, stubbed His toe and did just about everything else we do—except sin. This way, He showed us that we also could be very human, but also be very obedient to God and walk down the good path He’s laid out for all of us. He showed us that life could be different, better, happier, more peaceful, eternal ... exactly what it should be.

Not bad for a “simple” carpenter! Right?