

## Just Checking In

The following verse is a powerful and moving account of the love of Christ, and appropriate to consider anytime, but especially the week before Easter Sunday. Its author is unknown, but its message is true. Here it is:

*A minister passing through his church in the middle of the day  
Decided to pause by the altar and see who had come to pray.  
Just then the back door opened, a man came down the aisle,  
The minister frowned as he saw the man hadn't shaved in a while.  
His shirt was kinda shabby and his coat was worn and frayed,  
The man knelt, he bowed his head, then rose and walked away.*

*In the days that followed, each noontime came this chap,  
Each time he knelt just for a moment, a lunch pail in his lap.  
Well, the minister's suspicions grew, with robbery a main fear,  
So he decided to stop the man and ask him, "What are you doing here?"  
The old man said he worked down the road; lunch was half an hour  
And lunchtime was his prayer time, for finding strength and power.*

*"I stay only moments, you see, because the factory is far away;  
"As I kneel here talking to the Lord, this is kinda what I say:  
"I just came again to tell you, Lord, how happy I've been  
"Since we found each other's friendship, and you took away my sin.  
"Don't know much of how to pray, but I think about you every day.  
"So, Jesus, this is Jim, checking in today."  
The minister, feeling foolish, told Jim that was fine.  
He told the man he was welcome to come and pray anytime.*

*Time to go, Jim smiled and said, "Thanks." He hurried to the door.  
The minister knelt at the altar; he'd never done it before.  
His cold heart melted, warmed with love, and met with Jesus there.  
As the tears flowed in his heart, he repeated old Jim's prayer:  
"I just came again to tell you, Lord, how happy I've been  
"Since we found each other's friendship and you took away my sin.  
"I don't know much of how to pray, but I think about you every day.  
"So, Jesus, this is me, checking in today."*

*Past noon one day, the minister noticed that old Jim hadn't come.  
As more days passed without Jim, he began to worry some.  
At the factory, he asked about him, learning he was ill.  
The hospital staff was worried, but he'd given them a thrill.  
The week that Jim was with them, brought changes in the ward.  
His smiles, a joy contagious, changed people his reward.*

(more)

*The head nurse couldn't understand why Jim was so glad,  
When no flowers, calls or cards came; not a visitor he had.  
The minister stayed by his bed; he voiced the nurse's concern:  
No friends came to show they cared. He had nowhere to turn.  
Looking surprised, old Jim spoke up and with a winsome smile:  
"The nurse is wrong, she couldn't know, that He's in here all the while  
"Every day at noon He's here, a dear friend of mine, you see.  
"He sits right down, takes my hand, leans over and says to me:  
  
"I just came again to tell you, Jim, how happy I have been  
"Since we found this friendship, and I took away your sin.  
"I always love to hear you pray; I think about you each day.  
"And so, Jim, this is Jesus, checking in today."*

If you are a child of the King, this same Jesus who rose from the grave, you can be assured that He is checking in with you every day – yea, every moment. That's how much He loves you.

And He proved it on the cross and on that glad Easter morning.

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter