

All of us at one time or another receive an RSVP. However, not everyone knows what it means.

+It is like the couple that arrives here from Eastern Europe, but they not well versed in American culture. One day they received an invitation to a wedding, and at the bottom of the invitation were those cryptic letters: RSVP. In his thick, Eastern European accent, the husband said, "Vife, vat does it mean: RSVP?" Then it dawns on him: "Vife, I know vat it means: Remember Send Vedding Presents."

They made a mistake by imaging that the message was a demand when it was an invitation. Unfortunately, there are many people who make the same mistake about Jesus Christ and the gospel. They think it is a demand when in reality it is an offer—a free invitation.

In the gospel, we find there are invitations and revelations about God:

*There is the revelation concerning the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. Because of the Son, we are invited into this relationship. We might recall at Jesus' baptism the Father declared Jesus as His Beloved Son. Today God will do the same with these children, whispering into their souls they are God's sons and daughters.

*God is revealed to the little ones. Certainly today, these little ones will experience God in their own capacity, which is only love, as there is nothing between them and God.

1). As they become older, it will be up to their parents to do so. Sadly, there are households in which children will never know of this invitation, never learn from him, as they will never see or hear about God. That's on the parents.

2). For adults, it takes a childlike trust and humble disposition that God will come to us. In all the saints, this is the common link: trust and humility. Otherwise, God will remain hidden.

*If our hearts are open, we will find Jesus' RSVP with BYOB. Bring Your Own Burdens. Like, the burden of our anxieties and our fears, and of our loneliness. We come to him when we sense our spiritual sickness, when we sense our burdens. The very first step to take toward Jesus Christ is a frank and humble admission that we need him.

*If we come to him in this way, he will lift our burden and then add his own. One burden for another? How does that help? Well, he tells that "My burden is light." Jesus does not mean that the burden is easy to carry, but that it is laid on us in love.

When we remember the love of God, when we know that our burden is to love, then the burden becomes light. The yoke of Jesus is the love of God. Think about when you are in love! It is true how much lighter life becomes!

What Jesus is inviting us to do in coming to him and learning from him is to find the way of freedom. We have nothing to fear, for he is a patient, gentle master, and he lays upon us an easy yoke and a light burden if we will but come to him with an open and humble heart of trust.

Baptism weekend...