

A Date with Jesus

Introduction

A few years ago, I was asked to lead an icebreaker for a women's conference hosted by a church in the Chicagoland area. I can remember the conversation with the chairperson as if it were yesterday. "Carla, we want you to do the icebreaker, which is supposed to prepare the women emotionally and spiritually for the weekend, and you have forty-five minutes."

I immediately tried to come up with an excuse that would get me out of this task. Truthfully, I thought that I was going to be a facilitator for one of the workshops and had no idea that the committee had me in mind for the icebreaker. I had done a few icebreakers leading into workshops, but never just an icebreaker. At that moment I was more than thankful that my thoughts could not be heard.

As my right leg was shaking uncontrollably, I replied with much confidence, although I was petrified, "Sure, I can do that." The chairperson was pleased with my response, and we soon ended our conversation. While replaying this conversation over in my mind, I sat for a few minutes and stared at the stack of papers on my desk and wondered what type of icebreaker I could come up with that would be both entertaining and uplifting. With that thought in mind, I began questioning God about the assignment that was before me. Within a few minutes, I decided to call a very good friend of mine, who is a minister, to seek some guidance on the matter. She gave me a few pointers, and with much enthusiasm she said, "Carla, this is a great opportunity, and you'll do just fine." Even after this conversation, I was still thinking of some excuses that I could come up with so that I would have a reason to call the chairperson back to inform her that I would have to bow out of participating in the event.

During this negative self-talk that the enemy no doubt was spearheading, I realized that God had given me yet another chance to be his vessel. By praying about this invitation and doing my best to stay optimistic about everything, I decided to change my mindset and viewed this request as a wonderful opportunity to encourage and bless others, which is something that I enjoy doing.

That evening after arriving home from work, I pushed the garage door opener and eased my way into the garage. As usual I checked the mail and then entered into my townhouse to begin unwinding from the day. After I got settled and my nerves were a little calmer, I picked up a folder that contained various articles I'd written over the years. While thumbing through the folder, I ran across the article titled, "A Date with Jesus," and a light bulb immediately came on in my mind. I'd written this article one night while agonizing over the fact that I was bored and wished that I had a date for that evening.

While complaining to God about my situation, he clearly whispered the words, *A date with Jesus is what you really need.* Although I was quite disappointed that God didn't inform me that a handsome man was waiting outside my door with a dozen red roses, I took the instructions and began writing the article about what I would do on a date with Jesus. Before I even got to the end of the article, I knew then and there that the icebreaker that I was to present would be called, "A Date with Jesus."

At that moment I felt relieved that at least I had a topic, yet within minutes anxiety crept on the scene, because I was uncertain how I would pull the icebreaker together. In spite of my own feelings, I was obedient and asked God to guide my steps in helping me to create the icebreaker. God honored my prayer and more.

He began guiding my pen, and the end result was the icebreaker, "A Date with Jesus," which was very well received at the conference. I thanked God for showing me in the midst of my self-induced drama and times of disobedience that all things do work together for good. All that God wanted me to do was surrender my will and rest in the fact that everything was going to be all right. This was an awesome, memorable, spirit-

filled, educational, and life-changing event that afforded me the opportunity to meet some wonderful and dynamic women of God. Since that profound experience, God has clearly shown me that “A Date with Jesus” is a message that He wanted me to share with other women.

Within this book, Jesus and God are used interchangeably, as the Bible reveals that God is one and yet three persons who have the same real meaning of deity. The Bible speaks of God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. God is the creator of the universe and overseer of our lives, who sent his only begotten Son, Jesus, who came in the form of a man to do the will of God. Jesus was crucified for our sins, died, buried, descended into hell, rose again on the third day, and ascended into heaven, and now he sits at the right hand of the Lord God almighty and will return again someday.

The Holy Spirit was given to guide and direct our paths in decision-making and supports the roles of both God and Jesus.

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

John 16:13

I have three distinctive roles in my own life in addition to others, which include: servant of God, mother, and writer. Although I fulfill these three roles, I’m still one person. As the trinity, God is the father, son, and Holy Spirit, and they bear witness.

This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

1 John 5:6-8

It is my heartfelt desire that this book will bless and allow you to see that having *a date with Jesus* should be a top priority in your life. By spending time with Jesus on a daily basis, you’re doing what is essential to live an empowered, encouraged, balanced, and victorious life.

A Date with Jesus

Copyright © 2009 by Carla J. Curtis. All rights reserved.