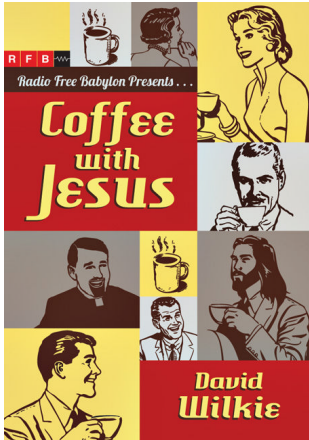




# BOOK DETAILS



## Coffee Talk with the Lord

Like many great things in life, the comic strip *Coffee with Jesus* was born out of frustration. Specifically, artist David Wilkie’s frustration with the polarized political climate in America.

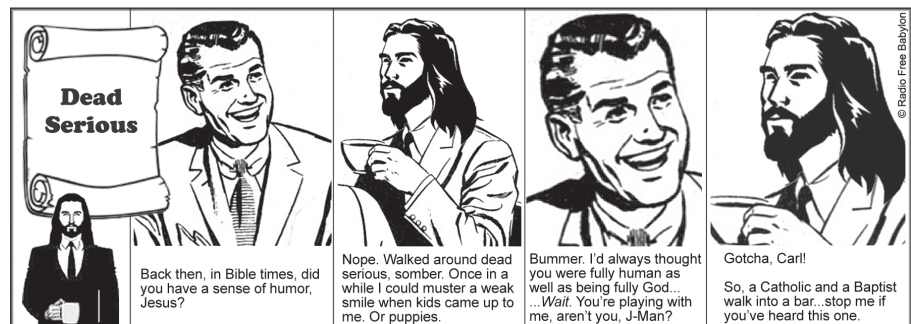
“Originally created as a one-off, single-panel comic on my blog, utilizing old advertising clip art for the main characters and Sunday school clip art for the person of Jesus, I simply enjoyed the notion of Jesus appearing at table with these people (dressed as they were and sharing coffee with them) to refute their claims of how he might vote on any particular issue, to convince them that they cannot confuse their flag with their God – to set them straight, as it were,” explains Wilkie.

But it didn’t stop here. Soon the Jesus of *Coffee with Jesus* could be seen offering counsel to a recurring cast of characters on their personal and work lives. The characters – Carl, Lisa, Ann, Kevin and Joe – all honestly engage with Jesus about their successes and failures and wants and needs, effectively showing what conversation with God – or prayer – might look like.

As the comic grew in popularity (shared by Baptists and Catholics alike!), Wilkie felt responsible to represent Jesus accurately. “Through various social media, the comic took off, and I soon felt the need and obligation to portray Jesus as I know him. . . . His replies are the still small voice, the whispers, the acknowledgments or pricks of conscience we get when we are quiet and waiting.”

Speaking of waiting, fans need wait no longer for a collection of their beloved comic strip to be published. Including classic entries and new, exclusive material like twelve-panel mega-strips and “behind the strip” reflections on life, faith and art, *Coffee with Jesus* the book can now rest happily on the coffee table or be transported right along with the coffee mug.

Six chapters are organized around six themes: getting to know Jesus, spiritual disciplines, relationships, culture, church, and the challenges of life. And for all your seasonal needs, there’s a nice appendix with strips on holidays and special occasions.



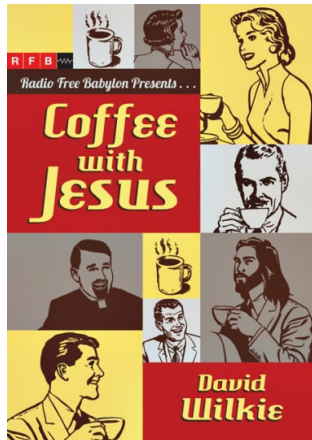
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW CONTACT:**

Krista Carnet, broadcast publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or [kkcarnet@ivpress.com](mailto:kkcarnet@ivpress.com)  
 Alisse Wissman, print publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or [awissman@ivpress.com](mailto:awissman@ivpress.com)  
 Adrianna Wright, online publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4096 or [awright@ivpress.com](mailto:awright@ivpress.com)  
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## An Imperfect Cast of Characters

Now appearing in *Coffee with Jesus!* In no particular order! Enjoy!



**Name:** Kevin

**Occupation:** Marketing and Advertising Executive, Church Growth Consultant

**Age:** 30

**Marital Status:** Single/Divorced

**Kevin** came to faith in Jesus at a youth group he was invited to by a girl he liked. She suspected that his commitment was part of a plan to become her boyfriend, and she wasn't wrong. They never dated, and Kevin quickly lost interest in church activities. Even still, Kevin has been haunted, as it were, by Jesus ever since. Though his faith waxes and wanes, Kevin is learning that Jesus pulls no punches, calls him on his antics and can ultimately be trusted. A professional doubter and cynic, Kevin is always trying to assist churches, and Jesus himself, in becoming more effective communicators.

Kevin married fresh out of college. It didn't last long. He was—and he will tell you this himself—a terrible husband. There was one child from the union, named (naturally) Kevin Jr. He sees his son on weekends and always pays his child support. Kevin now dates, often using Christian dating sites. His relationships still don't last long. His former girlfriends will tell you he's a terrible boyfriend. He's working on it.



**Name:** Carl

**Occupation:** Owner, The Scapers, a lawn maintenance/landscaping company

**Age:** 44

**Marital Status:** Married

Even the people who don't like **Carl** will say things like, "You gotta love ol' Carl." He's one of the boys. Carl first ran into Jesus at Vacation Bible School the summer after fourth grade. Today, both emotionally and spiritually, Carl is still very much a fourth grader.

Carl started his landscaping company after being fired from numerous jobs. . . . In too many cases, Carl's wandering eye was not appreciated by his coworkers. . . . Jesus agreed that solitary work might be Carl's best option. He's making decent money and is a firm believer in "bringing home the bacon" for his wife, Lisa, a stay-at-home mom. With two children in college and one in elementary school ("the accident," they call him), Carl and Lisa have been together since college, when Lisa became pregnant (also known as "the accident"). Carl's political and religious views are fused, and he'd have no problem telling you that if you don't vote the way he does, you're obviously not a Christian and you should maybe just leave the country.



# BOOK EXCERPT



Wilkie is the artist behind *Coffee with Jesus* and cofounder, with his wife, of Radio Free Babylon.

[radiofreebabylon.com](http://radiofreebabylon.com)



**Name:** Ann  
**Occupation:** Regional Manager for a nationwide retail chain  
**Age:** 41  
**Marital Status:** Single/Divorced

With two children in high school, a busy career and an active social life, **Ann** is strung out and stressed. She looks forward to her coffee with Jesus because, in her words, “He always gets me.” She knows she can let her guard all the way down. She’s been coming to him daily since she was a child of twelve. Her faith has been a walk of honest questioning, outright complaining and gradual growth.

Politically, Ann leans to the right – sometimes the extreme right – largely due to the influence of her good friends Lisa and Carl, as well as her ex-husband, Jim, an elder of their conservative church. She met Jim at Bible college and promptly married, because sex before marriage is wrong. Ann asked Jim to leave after he was discovered having an affair. Ann’s slowly learning that Jesus doesn’t necessarily share her views on quite a few topics. Active in her church and in community organizations, Ann is service-minded, but she can’t help seeking reward and recognition for her efforts. Ann goes on dates occasionally, often for the wrong reasons, and usually with the wrong men. . . . She’s hoping to find a guy who, in her words, “gets me.”



**Name:** Lisa  
**Occupation:** Stay-at-home mom  
**Age:** 40  
**Marital Status:** Married

**Lisa** is an optimist – a sunny, beautiful (“Thank you, Doctor Steve!”) optimist. Accustomed to the finer things in life, this happy and helpful woman grew up the youngest child of a doting, upper middle-class Christian couple. She can’t remember a time when Jesus and country clubs weren’t a part of her life. An excellent student, cheer captain and homecoming queen, Lisa went on to college where she met a smooth-talking, handsome jock named Carl. They were married in her sophomore year – not by choice.

Spa vacations, personal trainers, nice cars, and fine food and drink are what Lisa expects, but she is not unappreciative of these things. She has unfathomable patience with her husband, the gregarious (and notorious) Carl, whose frequent lapses in judgment often land the family in financial jeopardy. Now that their youngest child is in elementary school, Lisa is eager to finally put her Communications degree to work. . . . When she isn’t wearing rose-colored glasses, Lisa can be found wearing blinders. Jesus often removes them for her.



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# BOOK EXCERPT



**Name:** Joe  
**Occupation:** Pastor  
**Age:** 29  
**Marital Status:** Unknown

**Joe** pastors a small, struggling church in Anytown, USA (on Main Street, of course). His denomination, if he even has one, is unknown. He wears a cleric’s collar simply so you’ll recognize what he is. He might be married, but then you’d draw conclusions that we don’t want you to, so that, for now, is also unknown.

What is certain is this: While serving in the Army as a chaplain’s assistant, Joe finished school. Upon discharge from service, he went to seminary and was ordained. Now he leads a church. He’s new in town, new to the state and new to his congregation. . . . He had dreams—big dreams—of a big church and a big impact, so he sometimes falls prey to the gimmicks and tricks of the church-growth experts as he tries to compete with Worship World, the big church on the edge of town. Joe takes his work very seriously. He’s not afraid to get his hands dirty. (He has no choice. The church can’t afford a janitor.) . . . Joe is always smiling. Oftentimes it’s a real smile.



**Name:** Satan  
**Occupation:** Accuser of the Brethren  
**Age:** Older than Dirt  
**Marital Status:** It’s Complicated

**He** goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Other times he goes about as a purring kitten, seeking whose ankles he might snuggle up against. He’s subtle, smooth, sexy and smart, and he wants to get to know you better. He doesn’t think you need to be spending so much time with this silly Nazarene carpenter, who after all is the cause of every war, hardship and atrocity. . . .

Fine, you want to walk the path of the Galilean; that grungy, backwoods guy born within the stench of donkey and cattle dung? Then Satan will collect some rocks. Some are obvious; big boulders standing in your way. Others he just pelts at you from the bushes, giving you bruises and little scars to remember him by. Still others are tiny pebbles that he slips in your shoes when you’re not looking, and it makes it harder for you to walk. . . .

Resist, James said, and he gives up.