



*A Second Shot of Coffee with Jesus*

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*“The day I discovered Coffee With Jesus, I felt a little less alone in Christendom. Wilkie’s characters demonstrate our worst flaws, and Coffee Jesus skewers them with a wry balance of humor, solid theology and love. This might be the best evangelism tool since Mere Christianity. Perfect for a seeker or someone who’s fed up with religiosity but thirsty for Jesus.”*

—Susan Isaacs, author of *Angry Conversations with God*

## An Interview with the Artist Behind the Popular *Coffee with Jesus* Comic Strip

### How and why did Radio Free Babylon get its start?

**Dave Wilkie:** It’s a catchy name, isn’t it? I woke up with that name in my ear one morning in 2000 and promptly went to the computer and registered the domain. My wife has always said, “You don’t know what Radio Free Babylon is going to be.” She means that in a good way, as in, “You don’t know what plans God has for this.” It has become an outlet of sorts, a place to test ideas, to promote creativity and to participate in “missions” in a different way. I have a bigger vision for it, but for the time being, that is under wraps. There’s a time to speak and a time for silence. Right now I’m speaking in measured tones.

### What sparked the idea for the *Coffee with Jesus* comic strips?

**Dave:** It was the run-up to the 2012 election here in the United States and things were getting very weird politically. God and politics were getting mixed up like I hadn’t seen them in years. It didn’t matter if you were a far left Democrat or a far right Republican, you could find someone speaking about how God was on your side and that if you didn’t vote a particular way, the country was doomed. I decided it would be fun to have Jesus address those people.

### Where do you get the ideas for the comic strips?

**Dave:** They come from everywhere, but more often than not, they come from my own life, my own prayers and study. If I come across a hard-to-understand passage or concept in the Bible, I need to take that to God, research it, find an answer. If I’ve satisfied my own questions, then I need to break it down into four simple panels, hopefully making it funny and meaningful at the same time. If I catch myself being selfish and foolish in my prayer life, you might see that reflected in a strip featuring Carl. If I’m reading comments from agnostics, you might see Kevin bring those comments up in his new role as the unsure one. But really, anything is fair game: watching TV, talking with my kids, seeing the unconditional love of my dog. Ideas are everywhere.

### What do you hope to accomplish through the comic strips?

**Dave:** I hope to show people that Jesus is all the things we Christians say he is: Lord, God, Son of God, Son of Man, brother, resurrected Savior, Teacher, Master — and of course, friend. Some people struggle with the notion that he is anything more than a wise and easy-going teacher, while others have a hard time imagining him ever laughing and being fun. I also want to encourage people to just be honest with God. He knows it all anyway, so maybe instead of hiding from him and wearing our various masks, we should just bring it all to



David Wilkie is the artist behind the popular online comic strip *Coffee with Jesus*. He and his wife Katie cofounded Radio Free Babylon, a media creation consortium that produces literature, music, software, web sites and less tangible ideas about life. Dave has held numerous and varied positions in his career, including writer, creative director, producer, musician, on-air talent, clergyman, fax repairman and artist, sometimes all at once.

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

him. One of my favorite comments to see online when I publish these strips is, “I needed this one today.” I could not ask for more than that awesome gift—to have reached someone. That makes it all worth it.

#### **What is new/different about *A Second Shot of Coffee with Jesus*?**

**Dave:** Well, for starters, there are more of them in this volume than in the first. There are many in here that have never appeared online. I also didn’t include my preachy little essays and song lyrics before each chapter. (“Yay!” they all shouted.) In fact, this volume is not broken up into chapters. It’s just a boatload of comics. In the introduction to the book, I put it this way: This book is the kind you can pick up, flip to any page, read a couple of strips and then throw back down on the nightstand. Or the coffee table. Or the toilet tank. Or you can read them all in one sitting. And then hopefully read them again.