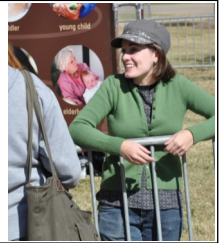




# What Would Jesus Say?

Speaking as an Ambassador for Christ

Holly Meath's Monthly Newsletter • January 2014



**2 Corinthians 5:20 (ESV)**

**Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ,  
God making his appeal through us.**

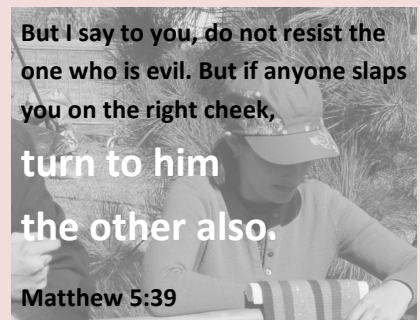
Dear Friends,

What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ? At JFA seminars, we teach volunteers that we have a responsibility to try to represent what Jesus thinks about important issues and to emulate how Christ would respond to people trapped in sin and deception. Christ prevented the stoning of an adulteress (John 8:7), and he ate with “tax collectors and sinners” (Mark 2:15). How would he talk to a pro-choice person?

I’ve been noticing lately just how much difference it makes when I and other JFA staff members and volunteers make a conscious effort to act in a Christ-like manner towards everyone we encounter. When we do this, people realize that there’s something different about us. Here are a few of the moments from this past November that stood out to me as encouragements to continue caring for pro-choice people as I believe Jesus would have:

November 5

I struck up a conversation with a student at Georgia Tech who was looking at the exhibit. It started off well, but we were soon interrupted by an older lady who appeared out of nowhere and began loudly and somewhat profanely berating me as a hypocrite, spouting off wild and defamatory conspiracy theories about pro-life activists and government officials. I listened and tried to respond graciously to some of her concerns. After about a minute of her bulldozing my attempts, the student I had been talking to at first stepped in and said to the woman “Excuse me; I’m on your side, but it’s people like you that make me embarrassed to be on that side. You come up here yelling and cussing at her, and she’s been nothing but nice to you. I’m out of here!” and with that he left.



I continued trying to talk to the woman for over an hour, with little progress. I felt beaten down and confused. At times I almost wanted to either smack her or hug her (I’m not sure which!) because her dogmatic positions were so upsetting and I felt sorry for her. But I refused to get emotional or even raise my voice. Since she seemed to only speak the language of loud and pushy arguments, maybe I could have reached her more effectively by interrupting her. But based on the male student’s statement, I knew that by remaining calm and gracious I was not only giving her respect, but I was also making a good impression on others who saw this interaction.

## November 11

Aisha had talked to me in the past when we'd had a small kiosk exhibit up at Wichita State University, and she had appreciated that exhibit even though she was pro-choice. Now we were back with a larger exhibit, and she found this display offensive and irritating. Instead of just avoiding it though, she made a beeline for me because, as she put it, "I don't like this display, but you're nice—I like talking to you. And I don't know for sure that I'm going to get that talking to anybody else out here."

She wanted to discuss her concerns with someone whom she could trust not to judge her opinions or respond defensively. Because of her trust in me, I had a second opportunity to share with her what we believed and why we were presenting it in this way.



Large exhibit at  
Wichita State University

## November 18

Rubén, the president of Wichita State University's College Democrats, had had a good conversation with JFA staff member Paul Kulas, so he had invited Paul to bring some of us to talk to his group. Several of us took hold of this unusual opportunity and visited their next meeting. What was meant to be an hour-long meeting turned into a deep, respectful group discussion between us and these passionate young Democrats that lasted for nearly two-and-a-half hours.



JFA staff members and volunteers  
after the WSU College Democrats meeting

One of the students, Erin, had had a conversation before with my colleague Joanna Wagner at an outreach. Joanna had not felt like she had been able to help her much through that conversation and was nervous that the impression she might have left would dissuade Erin from wanting to listen to us again. But that afternoon Erin admitted, "When I heard it was going to be a pro-life group today I was ready to walk out of here, but then I saw it was you guys, and I was like, 'Oh, okay, I'll stay,' because I knew that I wouldn't be personally attacked [like I have been by other pro-life organizations]."

The meeting closed with Rubén reflecting, "Wow, what would happen if people could have discussions like this all over the country instead of arguing?" JFA staff member Jacob Burow smiled and responded, "That's why I do what I do."

Blessings,

*Holly V. Meath*  
Holly Meath



**Justice For All** trains thousands to make abortion unthinkable for millions, one person at a time.

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