



# Dinner with a Perfect Stranger: An Invitation Worth Considering

By David Gregory

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## **You are Invited to a Dinner with Jesus of Nazareth**

The mysterious envelope arrives on Nick Cominsky's desk amid a stack of credit card applications and business-related junk mail. Although his seventy-hour workweek has already eaten into his limited family time, Nick can't pass up the opportunity to see what kind of plot his colleagues have hatched.

The normally confident, cynical Nick soon finds himself thrown off-balance, drawn into an intriguing conversation with a baffling man who appears to be more than comfortable discussing everything from world religions to the existence of heaven and hell. And this man who calls himself Jesus also seems to know a disturbing amount about Nick's personal life.

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*"You're bored, Nick. You were made for more than this. You're worried about God stealing your fun, but you've got it backwards.... There's no adventure like being joined to the Creator of the universe." He leaned back off the table. "And your first mission would be to let him guide you out of the mess you're in at work."*

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As the evening progresses, their conversation touches on life, God, meaning, pain, faith, and doubt—and it seems that having *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger* may change Nick's life forever.

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## **Dinner with a Perfect Stranger: An Invitation Worth Considering** By David Gregory Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

In *Dinner With a Perfect Stranger*, David Gregory relates the story of two men sharing a meal. The point of interest is knowing that one man believes he is Jesus. What will the other man think by the time the evening is through? The conversation begins, as one could imagine, scratching the dry hard surface of skepticism and doubt, but gently and persistently goes deeper and deeper, spiraling in from that starting point until they are eventually talking about the true stuff of life; the career drifting off-track, the marriage experiencing its own kind of strain, the life being lived where the philosophical questions of youth have given way to simply coping with modern day-to-day living.

Gregory's book is a refreshing reminder of what evangelical Christianity is at its very best -- a faith enlivened by the personal relationship between the Creator and the created. In the end, evangelical Christians are focused on who Jesus Christ is, and more specifically, who He is to them. Doctrinal stances, theological conundrums, questions about literal or non-literal Biblical interpretation, these are all beside the point for the certain type of Christian whose central focus is the life and person of Jesus.

In the *Narnia* series, C.S. Lewis touched on some of the core questions of religion, from the Christian viewpoint (is there a hell? What is heaven like, really? How can other religions be wrong, and just one be right?) Taking his cue from Lewis, Gregory does the same, realizing that questions like these come alive when they're in the context of a story, and we can be the third party, watching with interest while they are put on the table and considered. In the end, Gregory's book succeeds because of his willingness to approach interesting, hard questions like these. He is always, undoubtedly, aiming for the heart, but he realizes that to win the heart one must never forget that the mind has to come along for the ride. --*Ed Dobeas*

#### From Publishers Weekly

In this didactic inspirational novella, Cincinnati workaholic Nick Cominsky accepts an invitation that he assumes is a gag: to have dinner with Jesus Christ himself. He soon finds out it's no laughing matter, and, despite his doubts and initial misgivings, he engages in a long conversation with the deity (who has jettisoned the long locks and sandals in favor of a Brooks Brothers haircut and blue suit). That conversation constitutes the novella's light plot. As the courses of their elegant Italian meal are delivered, Nick and Jesus discuss the dichotomies of sin and salvation, grace and works, organized religion and personal faith. In his quest to prove why Christianity is superior to other religions, Gregory has Jesus make misleading statements about Hinduism, Buddhism and particularly Islam. These unfair caricatures add to the book's heavy-handed feel, as do strawman arguments for the veracity of the Bible and the resurrection. What's appealing about this book is that its Jesus is refreshingly down-to-earth; he digs good food, draws theological illustrations from *Star Trek*, and quietly chafes at wearing a necktie. But that can't disguise the fact that Gregory has not written a story so much as a dressed-up and controversial sermon. (*July 19*)

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#### Review

"Here's a wonderful feast for the mind and soul! Pull up a chair and eavesdrop on this provocative conversation. If you're like me, you'll hear questions that match your own — and answers that can change your life."

— *Lee Strobel, author of The Case for Christ, The Case for Faith, and The Case for a Creator*

“There's just one thing people need in order to live a happy, abundant life: to be convinced that God loves them. Want to be convinced? Read *Dinner With a Perfect Stranger*. The author deftly anticipates and answers every question. I predict this little book will become a classic—one of a handful of modern books (like *Mere Christianity*) that people read to kindle or rekindle faith. All of the "business" surrounding the dinner is done so well it reminds me of *Babette's Feast*--simple, earthly details that profoundly convey spiritual reality. *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger* is truly a wonderful book that makes me feel I've just heard the gospel for the very first time.”

— **Mike Mason**, author of *The Mystery of Marriage, Champagne for the Soul, and Practicing the Presence of People*

“The choice is yours: Enjoy a delicious meal of, say, veal fantarella with grilled vegetables. Or spend a quiet hour reading David Gregory's book. You may find an altogether different sort of hunger has been sated by the final page. Brilliant in its simplicity, fearless in its presentation of the truth, *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger* is one invitation you'll want to RSVP.”

– **Liz Curtis Higgs**, best-selling author of the *Bad Girls of the Bible* series

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Walter Chacon:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger: An Invitation Worth Considering*. Try to the actual book *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger: An Invitation Worth Considering* as your friend. It means that it can being your friend when you sense alone and beside that course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunated to suit your needs. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , let me make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

#### **Heidi Fritz:**

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book especially book entitled *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger: An Invitation Worth Considering* your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe not known for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a reserve then become one form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get prior to. The *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger: An Invitation Worth Considering* giving you an additional experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful details for your better life in this particular era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

#### **Chris Manley:**

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