

# Shhhhh. Don't mention Jesus.



It was all perfume and power seated for dinner that night. Dinner for six in the Matthews drawing room. Silver service, haute cuisine and Miles Davis playing softly in the background. Good wine, good friends, good humour, all of it good until ...

**Ed:** Jokes aside, I can't believe that he can say that about her in a public forum and get away with it!

**Joe:** Well, we still live in a society that values free speech don't we?

**Sue:** Indeed, "I may disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it".

**Joe:** Ah, Voltaire?

**Sue:** (smugly) Well, it is often incorrectly ascribed to him.

**Ed:** Sure, but what he said just isn't true and if he throws enough mud some of it will stick, and that could end her political career.

**Joe:** Hmm, "Done to death by slanderous tongue. Was the Hero that here lies".

**Sue:** Ah! ... Shakespeare?

**Joe:** Yes, *Much Ado About Nothing*.

**Sue:** Look, don't stress, people will eventually realize that what he's saying is baseless and it will cost him.

**Aaron:** "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned".

**Joe:** Hmmm? Oscar Wilde?

**Aaron:** No.

**Sue:** Dostoyevsky?

**Aaron:** No.

**Ed:** (random guess) Henry Mencken?

**Aaron:** No, Jesus Christ.

It was uncanny how, at that very moment, the music stopped as though the plug had been violently pulled. Stranger still was the shattering of Sue's wine glass in her hand directly over her Coq au Vin. But strangest of all was the mention of an awkward name that sensible people everywhere had agreed was best left unspoken.

**Prayer:** Dear God, please help me to speak boldly the name of Jesus Christ and never ever be ashamed of his glory.

**Bible verse:** "for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matthew 12:37)