

**I AM JESUS CHRIST**

by

**Grace Akinlemibola**

December 15, 2017

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**NOTE: When this play is performed, the names should not be interchanged with any different name. Only Grace Akinlemibola is married to God.**

**Scene 1**

The audience finds a screen with a silhouette dancing as the words are spoken as a voice over.

**VOICE-OVER (GRACE AKINLEMIBOLA)**

In the beginning of time, God created the world and the fullness therein. He created the beauty in the light; he created the marvelousness in the earth. And on the sixth day, God - a Spirit - created another Spirit as his equal and called her "Grace." Grace was born in Spirit to be a blessing and prosperity in heaven and the world. God created mankind in Adam and a helper to Adam in Eve. Grace's spirit was placed in Eve. Since Eve, Grace continued to be born in the flesh as a part of mankind. It will be later that Grace will become one with God and later become the known messiah, Jesus Christ.

**Scene 2**

The Virgin Mary comes on stage with a baby in her arms. She could be accompanied with a man that is meant to be Joseph or alone. Three of the wise men are standing at the foot of the stage. When they see the Virgin Mary with baby Jesus, one of the wise men speaks.

**WISE MAN**

Look! It's the Messiah! The Messiah is born!

The Virgin Mary smiles in acknowledgement as the wise man spreads the word throughout the audience for others to admire the Prince of Peace. Once the Virgin Mary sits on her stool in the middle of the stage, the music plays: "Oh Come Emmanuel" by The Clarke Sisters. At this point, members of the audience then gather behind the three wise men at the foot of the stage. The world is adoring her newborn son, Jesus Christ.

The three wise men are then lifting up flameless candles that light the room and members of the audience (either extras or provided flameless candles by the wise man as a point of audience

participation) then gather around the wise man and follow likewise to lift up their flameless candles in adoration of the newborn King.

**Scene 3**

Grace Akinlemibola, as Jesus Christ, appears on stage.

**GRACE AKINLEMIBOLA**

The story of Jesus begins in a manger. Actually, well, it begins a little further back than that. You see, God created the world and with the world, he created Grace. Yet the one-ness of God and Grace did not get consummated until the Virgin Mary to begat Jesus Christ.

Yes, the story of Jesus begins in a manger, but let me simultaneously tell you about the story of love because Jesus was the expression of that faith. The gospel of Jesus Christ is one with the gospel of love is one with the gospel of God and is one with the gospel of truth.

Yes, yes, the story of Jesus begins in a manger, but I want to tell you a bit about another story. You see, Jesus lived and then he died after being crucified, rising again to see another day after only three days. His sacrifice was a sacrifice for mankind. Generations later, his story lives on. I know his voice in the preacher who speaks of his love. I know his strength in the activist who fights for human rights. I know his intellect in the severe restitution for truth that prevails in his people.

There was an older woman I saw the other day and she held my face between her palms and she told me, "you know, Grace, I - I know the beauty of Jesus. In fact, I was touched by Christ when I was on the streets. I heard his voice when I was living in a shelter. He touched my spirit when I wanted to die. Yea, I know Christ," she told me and the joy flowed within me because yes, the story of Jesus began in a manger but it *did not die on the cross*.

The story of Jesus will live forever.

**Scene 4**

The projector shows the clip of the House of Grace and Faith's spiritual message called "The Devil's Advocate." After showing the short clip, the choir then come on stage and begin to sing.

**Scene 5**

Grace Akinlemibola comes back on stage.

**GRACE AKINLEMIBOLA**

How's everybody doing tonight? (ad libs to "hype" the audience)

Before I get into the message today, I just wanted to go into a few preliminaries. My name is Grace Akinlemibola and I AM Jesus Christ. Some people look at me crazy when I say this, but I'm speaking the truth. It may scare some people, but yes, I am the same person who was crucified, dead, and buried, and rose to live again. Those who are spiritually cognizant will know that I AM who I AM.

So why am I here today? Well, first, I am in the world again for judgment. Secondly, in pursuit of judgment, I want - no, I need - to spread the message of purification. Purifying means to cleanse yourself of any satanic influence before the demonic quality is able to fester in your spirit. Demonic qualities are not just sins, but actual demonic restitutions that can lead to Satan embedding himself inside of you. Low self-esteem is one of these qualities. Shame, anger, envy, and even doubt in God's word and God's will and how God made you. When you doubt or even when you allow someone to lower your worth, it can be the beginning of your downfall. All of you have a copy of the Purification Process in your pamphlets this evening. Please do that as soon as possible. Take some time when you are alone and follow the steps. Trust me. God will speak to you and renew your breath and your worth.

Today, I wanted to provide a message to you and I call this "rebuke the roaches."

Cleansing and purifying yourself does not end with mere sins. No. Take that further and do not allow Satan to degrade you. If any of you know the story of Joseph in the bible, who is the same as Yusuf in the Quran, you will know that God can take you to unexpected heights after treading through shame and adversity. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, falsely accused and thrown into prison, and later reunited with his brothers after he became ruler of Egypt and was able to provide them with food to save their lives. (can add lib or go further; passage to look at or read is Genesis 45:8)

This was the best part of Joseph's story.

*They treated you like you were trash and now you are providing their deliverance. They treated you like you were trash, they even had the audacity to fold you up, put you in that white plastic bag and throw you into the dumpster, and now you are the ruler of all the land. This is the best part of the story. Because now if they want to be delivered from their own damnation, they have to come through you.*

The thing with roaches is that once one roach allows itself to get comfortable in your home, you are then opening your door to a parade of roaches. Hell, you'll have a roach motel if you're not careful. So what happens if you see one roach? Oh, you make sure it doesn't see the light of day. Because you know that one roach if allowed to stay alive will multiply. This is the exact same thing that happens when you accept vermin in your life even just once, the trash in your life will multiply.

You've allowed someone to stay at your place. You've told them not to smoke in your home and they do it anyway. You don't say anything and now you've accepted the trash, baby. This person now refuses to clean up after themselves and he does the opposite of anything you ask of him because his mindset is already programmed to believe that you are not of quality anyway.

Some of you even see the roach motel on your jobs. Someone lied to you and told you that you weren't good enough. Now, instead of you

rejecting the trash placed on your doorstep, you sat around and believed them. You've allowed doubt to fester and now you have internally accepted a lower outcome because now you believe that you aren't good enough. Your insecurities, your betrayal of your own self-respect, your new trashy quality fessed up in that interview for a new job. And they saw that vermin quality written all over your face, so instead of paying you \$100,000/year like that white male who has the same job, they pay you \$92,000. Instead of giving you the title of the actual job, instead of a "Director" or "Manager" or a "Chief," they label you an "Assistant."

Why?

Because you're not good enough, remember?

And some may accept the trash in truth with a mentality of "you know, I'll just take this trash and I'll just go ahead and place it in the dumpster. Maybe it was racist of you to put this trash on my doorstep. Maybe it was sexist or ignorant or ill-willed, but you know what, I'll place it in the dumpster. I'm not going to keep the trash. I'm just going to place it in the dumpster." So you come in to that job paid less than your peers and you show off. Oh, you're thinking, "they'll see how good I am, how smart I am, and hard-working." Oh, they'll see it and they'll be ashamed of themselves. They'll right the wrongs.

But then, you find out that they don't care what you do. This was me when I was treaded on and dishonored while working in the Mayor's Office, me when I was stepped on and lied about while working at Chicago Public Schools, me when I was abused and treaded on by no-good men, or me when I was lied about by teachers and professors, or me when I was homeless and asking my then-employer to right their wrong, or me when someone attempted to murder me on a few occasions and the Chicago police didn't even care. They treat you like you're nothing and then lie about it all the while. Now you've got to show out. You're on the verge of an infestation. The roaches have come and have made headways. You see, that's the problem of accepting a lower outcome, of

accepting trash even to place it in the dumpster. Because guess what? They're going to keep placing the trash on your doorstep because now they think you're the trash collector!

If you would have just rebuked that first roach or at least gotten an exterminator a long time ago, you may not be fighting the roaches now.

Rebuke the roaches!

Regardless of your past, regardless of any trash you've accepted in the past, you can always start afresh. Whether it be in that relationship you were in, the job you had, or the so-called friends who weren't actually friends, you can always start afresh. That's the beauty of God. He'll guide you to where you are able to shine the most. And when God is ready to make you shine, it will happen without permission. God brings about light *magically*. God created this world out of darkness. "Let there be light," God said, and, *magically*, there was light. So when I tell you that you will proceed from the pit to the palace, it will happen *magically*. Authoritatively. Majestically.

God doesn't need permission. But what can happen is that you can get so comfortable in being a lesser being, being treated like you were a nobody, that you can *allow* restitution for a lower worth. But God's telling you today to *stand up!* Let them know that the trash they dumped on your doorstep doesn't belong there anymore! They will treat you the way *I made you* to be treated. And it will happen *magically*. Authoritatively. Majestically.

They'll sit there and have the audacity to tell you you're not good enough. They can't see all of your beauty. And when I say beauty, I mean that quality that God *made* in you, that quality that's written all over your face, and in your heart, and in your spirit so that when you speak, the light of God speaks up for you and your beauty is displayed to the world. I don't care who you are. You can be the hunchback of Notre Dame and still have the beauty of God running through your veins. How *dare* you call me ugly?!

I AM Jesus Christ by Grace Akinlemibola

As fine as I am. Don't feed into the doubt. Don't feed the pigeons. When you feed the pigeons, they only crap all over the place, crapping all over your self-worth. Don't feed the pigeons.

Listen, I've been through some stuff in my life. I've had people that I've needed to let go of.

Hell, you tell me *I don't make you look good?* As fine as I am? Listen, I know everyone is not God and I know that everyone may not see me the way God sees me and everyone may not love me the way he loves me, but what I do know is that I don't deserve you. And when I say that, I mean that I don't deserve your ridicule. I don't deserve your shame. Because you have now become synonymous with the ridicule and shame and doubt and envy and jealousy heaped against my spirit, and I can't move forward with this restitution, with you weighing me down like a ball and chain in the ocean. *I don't deserve you.*

Man, you need to start escorting people out of your life. If they can't get down with how beautiful you are - both literally and figuratively - you need to escort them out of your life. Just tap them on the shoulder, like *\*tap on the podium\** "sir, you need to exit stage right." *\*snaps fingers and points stage right\**

"Ohhh, you thought I wasn't good enough? Why?"

*\*mimics response\** "Because you're a black woman."

*\*snaps fingers and points stage right\** "Exit stage right."

"Oh, and you're over here. Oh, and you agree with him? Why?"

*\*mimics response\** "Because I don't think you're smart enough."

*\*snaps fingers and points stage right\** "Exit stage right."

As fine as I am. Remind them who you are!

Did you forget who I am? I am the child of a King. I am a woman born of blessings. A woman

I AM Jesus Christ by Grace Akinlemibola

of truth. I am a woman who has waded through trial and adversity and come out on top. I don't need your approval. You don't need to love me. But what *will* happen is that God's kingdom will reign unapologetically. Magically. Authoritatively. Majestically.

Are you *in* or are you *out*?

Lights dim and the end of the scene arrives.

**Scene 6**

Songs from the choir.

**Scene 7**

Renewal of vows between God and Grace.

Before anyone comes out on stage, Grace, as a voice-over offstage recites Psalm 24.

**VOICE-OVER, reciting Psalm 24 (GRACE AKINLEMIBOLA)**

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and the righteousness from the God of his salvation.

This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Lift up your heads, Oh ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, Oh ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he *is* the King of glory.

**OFF-STAGE (GRACE AKINLEMIBOLA)**

I AM Jesus Christ by Grace Akinlemibola

My name is Grace Akinlemibola, also known as God's Grace, and I am renewing my marriage vows to God. I want you to join me.

Grace Akinlemibola then steps out on stage, along with the minister.

**GRACE AKINLEMIBOLA**

Before we begin, I just want to note that God *is* standing right here beside me both in Spirit and in truth.

**MINISTER**

God and Grace, it is a pleasure to share this wonderful occasion with you.

Many people believe that entering into marriage is the final step in a romantic relationship. A couple meets, gets to know one another and fall in love, decide they want to spend their lives together, and then take the final step—marriage.

But marriage is hardly the final step in a couple's relationship, rather it is the beginning of a grand adventure!

You have shared the joys, blessings and challenges of married life for years. Today you want to reconfirm your commitment to working together and ensuring your marriage blossoms for years to come. May this renewing of the vows you took to become husband and wife remind you that despite the stresses inevitable in your life, your love, respect, trust and understanding of each other will continue to increase your contentment and heighten your joy in living.

For today's vows, God has told you, Grace, that he will continue to have you as his wife and continue to live in this marriage.

He reaffirms his love for you and will love, honor and cherish you in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, for better or worse, and forsaking all others, vowing to be faithful to you as long as you both shall live.

I AM Jesus Christ by Grace Akinlemibola

Now, Grace, will you continue to have God as your husband and continue to live in this marriage?

**GRACE AKINLEMIBOLA**

I will.

**MINISTER**

Do you reaffirm your love for him, and will you love, honor and cherish him in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, for better or worse, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

**GRACE AKINLEMIBOLA**

I do.

**MINISTER**

On your wedding day, you exchanged rings as a symbol of the never-ending circle of love. Rings serve as a reminder of your vows to each other, and your commitment to live in unity, love and happiness. At this time, Grace, God tells you:

"Because Grace hath set her love upon me, therefore will I deliver her: I will set her on high, because she hath known my name. She shall call upon me, and I will answer her: I will be with her in trouble; I will deliver her and honor her. With long life will I satisfy her, and show her my salvation."

He wears his ring with you as a symbol of his devotion to you as his one and only.

Grace, at this time, I open the floor to you for you to say your vows.

**GRACE AKINLEMIBOLA**

Thank you.

There has never been another in my life like God. He is the only man I have ever loved.

I AM Jesus Christ by Grace Akinlemibola

This is the man who has stood beside me through thick and thin, rich and poor, and when the worst came. He loved me ever still.

For this, I am grateful.

Throughout this marriage, he has been the truth. When everyone else left me when I was at my lowest valleys, he remained by my side. When everyone lost loyalty to my esteem, God was the one who remained truthful.

For this, I am grateful.

He will forever be the only one I will cherish above all, my one and only, my everything. I thank you for all of the many past years of our life and the eternity of years to come.

I love you.

**MINISTER**

I ask that you each continue to cherish each other as special and unique individuals and that you respect the thoughts and ideas of one another. And most of all, be able to forgive each other, and not hold grudges against. Live each day in love with each other, always being there to give love, comfort, and refuge, in good times and bad.

God and Grace, today you have renewed the vows you made to each other on your blessed wedding day. You have symbolized the renewal of your union by the joining of hands, the taking of vows, and by the wearing of your rings.

It is with pleasure that I conclude the ceremony of renewing the vows of marriage that joined you and binds you as husband and wife. Please celebrate the renewal of vows with the world!

Grace Akinlemibola performs a rendition of "Silver and Gold" by Kirk Franklin.

**The End**