

September 2005 - Starbucks ice cream

The only reason I'm writing this is to get my wife off my back. Also because she might have a point. And because I love this particular subject matter as much as she does. Also because I have nothing else to do.

Maybe I should start at the beginning. Just after dinner one evening, my wife, in a move not terribly unlike Eve's in the Garden of Eden, slipped up behind me and told me to close my eyes and open my mouth. Since she's usually pretty trustworthy, I complied. What followed was a taste sensation I hitherto had not experienced. The origin of this delectable delight was Starbucks White Chocolate Latte ice cream.

There are certain moments you remember in life—your first kiss, your wedding day, the birth of your children, and your first taste of Starbucks White Chocolate Latte ice cream. The moment I tasted it, I was instantly transported to a happy place where all things are wonderful and time has no meaning. For me, it was kind of like being at Home Depot.

You've heard of some foods being sinfully good? If this particular ice cream had been around back in Moses' time, there would have been eleven commandments instead of ten. I mean it.

Who knows? There may even be some untranslatable phrase in the Dead Sea Scrolls placed just after the Ten Commandments that goes, "Oh, and one more thing, Moses. Tell everyone to stay away from that Starbucks White Chocolate Latte ice cream. Ooowee, is that stuff good!"

All right. Now that I have you all jazzed about the ice cream, I'll break the bad news to you.

They don't make it anymore. That's right. My wife e-mailed Starbucks and confirmed it. They have discontinued the flavor.

It's okay. Let it out. Remember crying is a vital part of the mourning process.

The elimination of this product makes perfect sense to me, though, because everything my wife and I go ga-ga for either goes out of business, is taken off the market, is outlawed, or all of the above. Start praying now that we don't discover your favorite foods, restaurants, and toiletry products.

So, my wife, believer in me that she is, thinks that if I write an article about this subject, it will serve as a catalyst for a national, ground-swell movement to bring back our favorite ice cream. I think she envisions Starbucks being bombarded with thousands of e-mails and phone calls requesting—no, make that, demanding—that this wonderful flavor be once again placed into production. She sees Jesse Jackson, Pat Robertson, and possibly even former child star Gary Coleman (if he's not already booked) leading a million-man march in front of the Starbucks headquarters in Seattle.

Such is the vision of my wife. Such is her resolve. Such is her ice cream addiction. She will not be gainsaid in this matter. She will not be moved. (Translation: I'm going to keep hearing about this unless I give in and write the silly article.)

So, if this insane little gambit actually works and Starbucks starts making the flavor again, you'll have to taste-test it and tell me if you agree.

And speaking of taste-testing, Psalms 34:8a says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good..." (clever transition, huh?)

That's how confident God is. Once you experience an authentic relationship with him, you'll find that he can be trusted with all the things that matter most in your life—your hopes, your fears, your relationships, your finances, everything.

Engaging in a relationship with Jesus is not a laborious, eat-your-spinach experience. It's much more, well, delicious, like diving into a bowl of your favorite ice cream, with no weight-gain repercussions or consequences.

And, one of the best things about this particular source of goodness is that the Lord will never be discontinued, unlike a particular ice cream flavor I may have mentioned elsewhere in this article.

Oh, and about the ice cream, I should mention that the White Chocolate Latte flavor is slightly addictive, but don't let that keep you from joining my cause. Just think about all the health care workers that are out of work at the Starbucks Detox and Rehab Centers. Those people need jobs too.

For those of you bonkers enough to join me in this senseless but highly rewarding quest, you can visit the Starbucks website at www.starbucks.com, click on their "contact us" tab and demand they starting making my ice cream again!

© 2005 Charles Marshall. *Charles Marshall is a nationally known Christian comedian and author. Visit his Web site at www.charlesmarshallcomedy.com or contact him via e-mail at charles@charlesmarshallcomedy.com.*