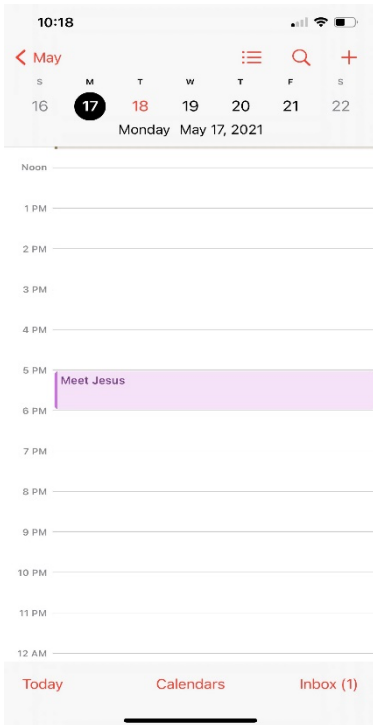




The Appointment
 May 19, 2021
 Rachel Yates

In our house remodels, we've met many contractors: some good, some not so good. Jesús is one of the good ones. His drywall and painting company has worked on several of our house projects. They are timely, reasonably priced, and skillful. When we took on this new home rehab, we arranged for him to give us an estimate for plaster and stucco repair. Though I knew the appointment was scheduled, it still caught me by surprise when my calendar had a 5 pm slot to "Meet Jesus."



Without the accent mark over the "U", the name Jesus took on an entirely different meaning. It made me wonder what my life would be like if it were so simple to encounter the Holy One by putting a time and date on the calendar. From 5-6 pm on Monday, I'll meet up with Jesus. Is an hour enough time? Should I block out 2 hours at least? Shall we Zoom?

When would you calendar your time with Jesus? For some, it's most familiar to schedule that slot on Sunday morning, around 10 am. Imagine instead that you could pick any day and any time. Pick a slot and set aside everything else except meeting Jesus. It could be a time for loving conversation or prayer. It could be a time of quiet refreshment, just resting in his presence. Maybe you'll bring a sense of urgency about a situation in the world, asking guidance and courage on how you might make a difference. You might block out time to listen.

The miracle of a Redeemer who is not bound by time is this: we can calendar that time – and as much of that time – without worrying about scheduling conflicts.

No Doodle poll is needed to find a time that works. It's up to us to carve out that space.

For me, the discipline of putting it on the calendar is a good one. Otherwise the day rushes by, and I'm trying to make time for Jesus just before bed when I'm exhausted. Many of you follow a discipline of setting aside time in the morning for communing with Jesus. It's a good way to start your day. Whenever you choose, I pray you will make that time. If it becomes a spiritual discipline, an appointment to "Meet Jesus" won't catch you off guard, as it did me. Hopefully it becomes the one appointment on your calendar that you'll never want to miss or reschedule.