

Nicodemus's Lesson

Week of Feb. 3 - 9, 2020

Introduction

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a Jewish leader. As such he was curious, upright and hungry for the truth. He was also a bit afraid. He used the cover of night to inquire about the light that came from Jesus. Jesus is delighted to talk and challenge this wise teacher. Playfully, Jesus helps Nicodemus see that God is not simply a principle to be debated, but a person to be delighted in. Sitting right in front of him!

Lesson John 3:1-17

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

⁴ "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

⁹ "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as

Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Questions

1. Was Nicodemus a religious man?
2. Why did Nicodemus visit Jesus at night?
3. What was Jesus doing that made Nicodemus curious?
4. Why doesn't Nicodemus understand that he must be born again?
5. Have you ever met someone in your life who thinks Jesus' message does not apply to them?
6. How is a person born again?
7. Why did God give his son to the world?

Prayer

Dear Lord: Thank you for teaching us that we must be “born again.” Thank you for sending us your only Son and for teaching us that if we believe in Him, we will have eternal life. Amen