

Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaway:

1. Everyone is on a spiritual journey - Some people come to faith instantly; others take time. We need patience with those who are in the "curiosity phase."
2. Traditions and preferences can blind us - Sometimes we're so committed to our upbringing or social circles that we miss what Scripture clearly says.
3. Satan attacks where it hurts most - When we move from darkness to light, we'll be tempted with what we care about most.
4. Truth over tribe - "When truth costs our circles, we should choose the cross over the crowd."
5. Following Jesus requires sacrifice - Nicodemus gave up everything he'd worked for his entire life to follow Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night? What might he have been afraid of?
2. Have you ever been hesitant to publicly identify with Jesus? What held you back?
3. Jesus tells Nicodemus he must be "born again." What does this mean in practical terms?
4. How does this challenge the idea that we can earn our way to God through good works or religious activity?
5. The sermon mentioned Jesus' metaphor about darkness and light was intentional since Nicodemus came at night. What does it mean to move from darkness to light in your own life?
6. What areas of your life might still be in "darkness" that need to be brought into the light?
7. When Nicodemus defends Jesus' right to a fair hearing, he's immediately attacked. Why do you think institutions or groups sometimes attack questioners rather than engage with truth?
8. Have you ever experienced pushback for standing up for Jesus or biblical truth? How did you respond?
9. Nicodemus brings 75 pounds of burial spices—the amount used for kings. What does this tell us about how his view of Jesus changed?
10. What's the difference between being a "secret disciple" and a "bold believer"?

Practical Applications:

1. Identify one area of your life you've been keeping hidden or "in the darkness" Bring it into the light by confessing it to God and a trusted Christian friend
2. Take one concrete step toward change
3. Identify one belief or practice you hold primarily because of your social circle rather than Scripture. Study what the Bible actually says about this topic. Be willing to change your position if it conflicts with God's Word.