

Bill & Kipp's Excellent Bible Adventure

John - **Episode 11** - John 3: 1-21 - *Nicodemus*

I. Born Again and/or From Above

- A. If you were an original reader of John, knowing that this word has multiple meanings, how would you have reacted when reading John's text?
- B. Have you ever had a moment that you sensed that you had a spiritual "rebirth?" How did that affect your life?

II. Must Be Lifted Up - John 3:14-17 is some of the most familiar in Scripture, and the most powerful: "And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

- A. Read Numbers 21: 4-9. What did the Children of Israel do to cause God to punish them?
- B. Why do you think God had Moses make the pole?
- C. Considering John 1:17, "The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ," How is Jesus comparing/contrasting himself to Moses?
- D. How was Jesus "lifted up?"
- E. How do you respond to the message that salvation comes not through the law, but as a gift of grace in Jesus Christ?

II. Unresolved Character - Nicodemus appears in three places in the Bible, all in John:

John 3: 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

John 7:50 Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before, and who was one of them, asked, 51 "Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?" 52 They replied, "Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you? Search and you will see that no prophet is to arise from Galilee."

John 19: 38 After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. 39 Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. 40 They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

- A. Why do you think Nicodemus came at night?
- B. Considering all of the actions of Nicodemus, do you think he went toward the light, or the dark?
- C. Have you ever, like Nicodemus, dwelled in the shadows? What caused you to move toward the light?
- D. Nicodemus was considered one of the wisest teachers of his day, yet he had doubts? Where does doubt seep into your faith? Are doubts or unresolved questions barriers or assets to faith?