

**When Jesus Speaks to You**  
**John 3:1-17**  
**When You Know Too Much**

- It is hard to hear from Jesus if we come to Him with mixed motives.
- The context sets this conversation as an illustration of Jesus being careful about who He entrusted himself to.
  - Nicodemus approached Jesus at night (symbolic of spiritual darkness).
  - Jesus exposes Nicodemus' motives with his response.
- Nicodemus was careful to approach Jesus with an ambiguous statement.
  - In essence, Jesus is asking Nicodemus, "Do you really want to see the Kingdom of God?"
  
- It is hard to hear from Jesus when knowledge does not lead to understanding.
- Nicodemus was a teacher of Israel, a man who was in a position of leadership and who would have been very familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures.
  - Jesus makes it clear that, while Nicodemus knew what the Scriptures said, he had failed to understand what they really meant.
  - This becomes clear in Jesus' statements about being born again (or from above) and about being born of water and spirit (see Ezekiel 36:25-27 and Ezekiel 37).
  
- It is hard to hear from Jesus if we fail to understand that He comes to us in love.
- Perhaps a reason Nicodemus failed to understand the Scriptures is because he had failed to understand the ultimate heart of God.
  - Often, this is the reason we fail to hear from Jesus. We don't really want to hear from Him because He will speak a word of condemnation to us. However, He truly wants to speak love over us.