

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

Text: John 3:1-21

Open

1. If you could be any religious leader living today, who would you want to be and why?
2. Is there a religious leader (besides Jesus) in history that you would want to be a disciple of? Why?
3. How much of a night person are you – how well do you function at night?
Share a time when you went “out at night” because you wanted the anonymity of the cover of darkness.

Digging Into the Text

4. How clearly did Nicodemus understand what Jesus was saying (vs. 4)? Why? How was he interpreting Jesus?
5. How did Jesus explain what it meant to be born again (vss. 5-8)? What is the water Jesus talked about? What is the Spirit? How does the wind help explain the new birth?
6. What does Jesus mean by “earthly things” in verse 12? How do they contrast with “heavenly things” in the same verse?
7. What do verses 16-21 teach us about God and His plan? Is there anything we learn about humanity in these same verses?
8. Several times in verses 16-18 the word “believe” is used. What kind of action is part of this kind of belief? How do verses 19-21 relate to this kind of belief?

Reflect

9. In what ways might you sometimes feel like Nicodemus?

10. What do you remember about being “born again?” What changed in the next few weeks after your decision to follow Jesus? What changes are still taking place in your life today, even since the beginning of 2020?

11. What does this quote stir in your mind and heart? “Following Jesus isn’t something you can do at night where no one notices. It’s a twenty-four-hour-a-day commitment that will interfere with your life. That’s not the small print – that’s a guarantee.” – Kyle Idleman, Not A Fan.