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Nicodemus

*“There was a man named Nicodemus, a **Jewish religious leader** who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. ‘Rabbi,’ he said, ‘we all know that God has sent You to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with You.’” John 3:1-2 (NLT)*

“Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.” John 19:38-42 (NIV)

Things We Learn from Nicodemus

1) We need to rethink our definition of SUCCESS.

- Pharisee – elite 6,000
- Sanhedrin – elite 70
- THE teacher of Israel – elite #1

*[Jesus] “...Are you the **teacher of Israel**, and do not know these things?” John 3:10 (NLT)*

2) We need to get ALONE WITH JESUS.

“This man [Nicodemus] came to Jesus by night...” John 3:2 (NKJV)

3) Being BORN AGAIN is the answer to the questions you don’t even know to ask.

“...Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with Him. Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’” John 3:2-3 (NKJV)

4) Don’t let the PHYSICAL blind you to the SPIRITUAL.

“Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.” John 3:6-8 (NLT)

5) Question: So what is God's definition of success?

- Answer: You must be **BORN AGAIN**.

"Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.'" John 3:3 (NLT)

[Jesus] "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16 (NKJV)

Keep the Conversation Going...

1. Is there a conversation you'd like to have with Jesus face to face? How do you think He would respond?
2. What do you think it means to be "born again"? How have you experienced spiritual rebirth in your life?
3. Read John 3:16. How has your life been changed by placing your hope in Jesus as your Lord and Savior?