



# MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **Nicodemus: A Conversation with Jesus on Religion**  
Series: OVERHEARD  
Text: JOHN 3:1-21  
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **March 3, 2024**

## 1. A RELIGIOUS LEADER \_\_\_\_\_ JESUS

Now there was a **man of the Pharisees** named Nicodemus, a member of the **Jewish ruling council**. (Jn 3:1).

- \_\_\_\_\_ - An important Jewish sect at the time of Jesus that was devoted to exact observance of the Jewish religion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ - A group that served as the judicial authority for the Jews. It was composed of “leading priests and other members of the non-priestly nobility”. The group informally advised the high priest.

**He came to Jesus at night** and said, *“Rabbi, **we know you are a teacher** who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”* (Jn 3:2).

- NOT A SHY \_\_\_\_\_
- NICODEMUS WANTS TO GIVE JESUS SOME \_\_\_\_\_!

## 2. RELIGIOUS CREDENTIALS ARE \_\_\_\_\_

In reply Jesus declared, *“**I tell you the truth**, no one can see the kingdom of God unless **he is born again**.”* (Jn 3:3).

### WHAT ARE YOUR RELIGIOUS CREDENTIALS?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- KNOWLEDGE OF THE \_\_\_\_\_
- STATUS ON A \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

*How can a man be born when he is old?”* Nicodemus asked. *“Surely **he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!**”* (Jn 3:4).

**HIS FOCUS IS UPON THE PHYSICAL \_\_\_\_\_!**

### 3. YOUR ONLY CREDENTIAL IS BEING \_\_\_\_\_ !

Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is **born of water and the Spirit.** 6 **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.** 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’

8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. **So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.**” (Jn 3:5–8).

“**How can this be?**” Nicodemus asked. (Jn 3:9).

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you **a new heart** and **put a new spirit in you;** I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will **put my Spirit in you** and **move you to follow my decrees** and be careful to keep my laws. (Ezek. 36:25–27)

“**You are Israel’s teacher,**” said Jesus, “and **do you not understand these things?** I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. **I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?** (Jn 3:10–12).

### 4. JESUS OFFERS WORDS OF \_\_\_\_\_

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, **so the Son of Man must be lifted up,** 15 that **everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.**(Jn 3:14–15).

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.** (John 3:16)

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but **to save the world through him.** (John 3:17)

**Whoever believes in him is not condemned,** but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. (Jn 3:18).