

# Face to Face with Jesus

## *Pt. 3 – Nicodemus*

### **Lessons from the story of Nicodemus:**

Jesus is available for me.

*Jn. 3:1* Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council, <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus at night...

Outward obedience does not equal relationship.

*Jn. 3:2* 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.” <sup>3</sup>In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” <sup>4</sup>“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!” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup>You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

Spiritual transformation is required for relationship with God – I must be born again!

God’s primary objective for you is salvation.

*Jn. 3:16* 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.

*Jn. 3:16-21* This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending His Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in Him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust Him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person’s failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to Him. (The Message)

*Jn. 7:48* Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? <sup>49</sup>No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them. <sup>50</sup>Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, <sup>51</sup>“Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?” <sup>52</sup>They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.” <sup>53</sup>Then each went to his own home.

When I come to Jesus and discover who He really is, He will make a lasting impact on my life.

*Jn.19:38* Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. <sup>39</sup>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.

**Key Lesson:** Everyone needs Jesus.

**How to be born again:**

*Jn.1:9* If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

*Rom. 10:9* If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved...<sup>12</sup>the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup>for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."