

## Jesus and Nicodemus

April 4, 2021

John 3:1-21

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, which we will get to in a minute.

Nicodemus came to Jesus at night so the crowd would be smaller or non-existent, and it's believed that Nicodemus didn't want to be seen by others.

What can we glean from Nicodemus's encounter with Jesus?

**Our \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't matter to Jesus (vs 1-13)!**

Nicodemus, for one, proves this.

**Nicodemus' name literally meant "superior."**

**Highest echelon of religion.**

**Ruler of the Jews – part of the chosen race.**

**Member of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish high court (only 71 in the land).**

**Belonged to the best group in Israel.**

**Well-educated religious leader.**

**In regards to accolades and "who's who", Nicodemus had it.**

If anyone who's status would have put him in "good" with Jesus it would have been Nicodemus.

Look back at verses 4-14.

No amount of status, money, title, service, actions or right thoughts get us anywhere with the Lord. Our merits are nothing. Scripture reminds us that our righteousness is like filthy rags (Isiah 64:6).

So many Americans today believe that the way to heaven is good works, but there will be many people in hell who did possibly a number of "good works." Believers aren't saved because of good works, rather they are saved and because of their salvation, good works follow.

**There is but \_\_\_\_\_ Way to be saved (vs 14-18).**

**"Religion is man's attempt to get to God. Christianity is God's plan to come to man." ~ Adrian Rogers**

*<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

I told you some time ago about a missionary who was moved into a missionary cottage on the field. And she was a good housekeeper, and the floor was dirty. And so she wanted to clean the floor, and she got her a scrub brush and a pail of soapy water and began to scrub the floor. And the dirt began to come up, and she scrubbed and scrubbed and scrubbed, and rinsed and scrubbed, and rinsed and scrubbed, and she finally threw up her hands and said, "I don't believe I'll ever get this dirty floor clean." Somebody just smiled and said, "I'll tell you why. It's a dirt floor." She's scrubbing a dirt floor. Now, friend, that dirt floor is our nature, and we can scrub it all we want, but we are by nature the children of wrath. Here was Nicodemus. He was born into the natural world, he was bound to the sinful world, and he was blind to the spiritual world. Now, Jesus says to this man, Except you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God. Look in verse 3: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Now, he was well educated. Jesus said he was a master in Israel. That is, he

was a man who was learned. He was very religious, but he was still spiritually blind. He came to Jesus by night, but there was a greater darkness in his soul; he could not see. ~ **Adrian Rogers**

*But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.* **Romans 8:9**

Colchester, England; and a teenage boy was unable to get to the church he usually attended. So he made his way to a nearby Primitive Methodist chapel, where an ill-prepared layman was substituting for the absent preacher. His text was Isaiah 45:22—"Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth." For many months this young teenager had been miserable and under deep conviction; but though he had been reared in church (both his father and grandfather were preachers), he did not have the assurance of salvation. The unprepared substitute minister did not have much to say, so he kept repeating the text. "A man need not go to college to learn to look," he shouted. "Anyone can look—a child can look!" About that time, he saw the visitor sitting to one side, and he pointed at him and said, "Young man, you look very miserable. Young man, look to Jesus Christ!" The young man did look by faith, and that was how the great preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon was converted. The difference between perishing and living, and between condemnation and salvation, is faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus could well have come to this world as a Judge and destroyed every rebellious sinner; but in love, He came to this world as our Saviour, *and He died for us on the cross!* He became the "uplifted serpent." The serpent in Moses' day brought physical life to dying Jews; but Jesus Christ gives eternal life to anyone who trusts Him. He has salvation for a whole world! ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

**"Look and live."**

**Everyone either walks in \_\_\_\_\_ or in darkness (evidence, vs. 19-21).**

**Why does our world hate God, because they love darkness (sin)? Why does our world want to silence Christians, because they love darkness? Why do people celebrate outright, blatant sin, because they love the darkness?**

*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?* **Romans 6:1-2**

**As we said earlier, we are not saved by good works, but if we have been saved, works will follow (evidence).**

**James 2:14-26**

**Galatians 5:22-23**

**Birth is the beginning- we don't just celebrate the birth of a child and leave it on its own. No, there is life and growth after new birth. The parents (and others) feed, nurtures and takes care of that child.**

**Jesus is the one who "grows" us as Believers, but also has called us to make disciples (doesn't use the word converts). How are you making disciples?**

**Lords Supper  
Domino**

**Prayer Focus:**

- Are you depending on your status or works for salvation?**
- Have you trusted in Jesus?**
- Is their fruit in your life?**
- How are you making disciples?**