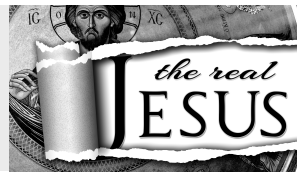


## Nicodemus: Getting to the heart of the story.



The Real Jesus-  
Part 9  
Noah Largent  
3/1/20

### Key Verses

John 3:3 Jesus replied, "I assure you: Unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:16 "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

### 1. What can we learn from Nicodemus?

**The Humility to seek God's truth.** Nicodemus was risking a lot by looking for answers. He risked going against the opinion of his peers. He was one of Israel's religious and intellectual leaders, it must have been embarrassing to acknowledge that he was confused. *Humility* is a necessity for salvation and growth in our lives. Pride is among the most destructive forces in our lives. God hates it and it has terrible, even deadly consequences.

-James 4:6,7&10 God opposes the proud, but he gives grace to the **humble**." <sup>7</sup> So submit to God... <sup>10</sup> **Humble** yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you. (& 1 Peter 5:5)

-Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and **humility** comes before honor.

-Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in **humility** value others above yourselves

Jewish teachers spoke of Gentile converts to Judaism as starting anew like, "newborn children" (just as an adopted son under Roman law relinquished all legal status in their former family when they became part of a new one). "IVP Background Bible Commentary" By Keener. p 255

### 2. What does John want us to learn from this encounter?

Three things we can't miss. **One**, that Jesus is no ordinary teacher. He has the audacity to say that no one has ever been or done what he has, "*No one has ascended into heaven except the One who descended from heaven—the Son of Man*" (Jn.3:13). John's thesis is on full display in this story, that Jesus came into the world to testify to the truth: "*the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth*" -John 18:37.

**Secondly**, it should be no surprise that Jesus cuts to the most important truth that Nicodemus needed to hear: *everyone needs to be born again!* We all need the cleansing and leading that comes from receiving God's spirit. It comes as a free gift. It's available to all who seek Him.

**Thirdly**, that Jesus' death (*he was lifted up for us Jn. 3:14*) comes freely to us, **but** it was costly for God. It's God's key demonstration of His love for the world and it's that demonstration of sacrificial love that Jesus appeals to when he tells us to "love one and other" (Jn 13:34).

### For further discussion:

-Compare and contrast Jesus' approach to engaging Nicodemus and the Woman at the Well in John 4:1-26. Why the difference?

-How do you think Jesus would define what it means to "*believe*" in Him (John 3:12;15;16,18&36)? (looking up other places where the word "believe" is used may help as well).

### Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---