

## NICODEMUS MEETING THE MESSIAH

### I. WHO WAS NICODEMUS?

A. **John 3:1, 10**

Nicodemus is described as “a ruler of the Jews” and Jesus identified him as “the teacher of Israel.”

B. **Luke 24:18-20; Acts 4:24-28**

It was the rulers who eventually sentenced Jesus to die.

C. **John 12:42-43**

Despite the animosity of the rulers in general, there were believers among them, but believers too cowardly to oppose the rest.

1. **Romans 10:9-10**

What is believed in the heart must be confessed with the lips.

2. **Matthew 10:32-33**

The consequences are severe for failing to confess.

D. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:26-29**

Few whom the world regards as wise, mighty, or noble choose the gospel.

### II. WHEN DID NICODEMUS VISIT?

A. **John 3:2; 7:50; 19:39**

He approached Jesus with caution, under the cover of darkness. He was not ready to be associated with the Lord. Every subsequent reference to this man includes the detail of him coming by night. He was full of reluctance.

B. **Matthew 21:28-32**

Christ taught that what one does and says to begin with is not nearly as important as how that one finishes.

C. **John 7:32, 45-52**

Nicodemus challenged his fellow rulers when they presumed there were no believers on the council, and he urged them to deal justly with Christ.

**D. John 19:38-42**

Following the crucifixion, he accompanied Joseph of Arimathea in burying the Lord.

**1. Luke 23:50-51**

What is stated about Joseph is implied about Nicodemus, that *“he had not consented to their decision and deed.”*

**2. Mark 15:43**

It is also fair to conclude that Nicodemus needed courage to participate in the burial, just as Joseph did.

**III. WHY DID NICODEMUS MEET JESUS?**

**A. John 3:2**

He was convinced by His signs that Jesus was not less than *“a teacher come from God.”*

**B. Mark 3:22**

He was not heard-hearted, like those who accused Him of using demonic power to perform miracles.

**C. John 10:37-38**

To know that Jesus was in the Father and the Father in Him is why He did these works at all. Nicodemus grasped this fact if nothing deeper.

**IV. WHAT DID NICODEMUS LEARN?**

**A. John 3:3**

He was taught that rebirth is prerequisite to kingdom entrance.

**1. Mark 10:15**

Jesus consistently preached that the simplicity of childhood is necessary to enter the kingdom.

**B. John 3:4-5**

When Nicodemus did not immediately comprehend Jesus' meaning, the Lord explained that being born again means being born of water and the Spirit.

**1. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9-11**

Sins prevent one from inheriting the kingdom, but the **washing**, sanctifying, and justifying of Jesus and the **Spirit** changes that.

**2. Titus 3:3-7**

Sin is the problem, and the solution is the kindness, love, mercy, and grace of God who saves us through *"the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit."*

**C. John 3:6-7**

The rebirth is distinct from the flesh.

**1. Romans 8:5, 9**

Our existence must be spiritually focused.

**2. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:21**

The water that we need apart from fleshly cleansing is baptism.

**D. John 3:8-21**

Being born of the Spirit might be hard to grasp for those who have not done so, but so is grasping the wind for anyone who is not God!

**1. Ecclesiastes 11:5**

As we don't know the way of wind, we don't know everything God does.

**2. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:13-14**

People with a worldly mindset do not understand spiritual stuff.