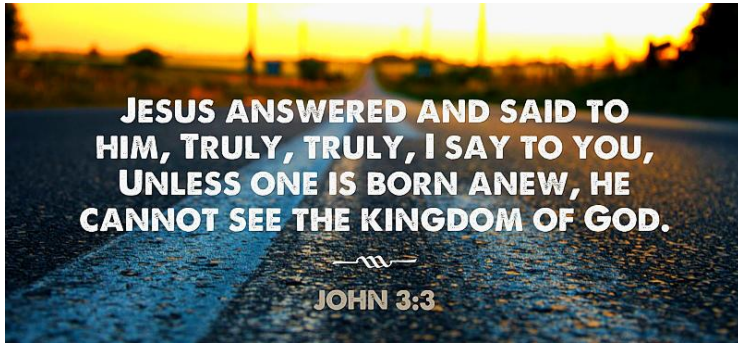


Guided by a cloud 50 (Exodus 13:21-22)

This week in my search for inspiration I remembered the character of Nicodemus. He was a Pharisee, which means that he was an influential man in religious circles in Jesus' time. He was also a member of the Jewish ruling council, called the Sanhedrin. He probably had some wealth as well, so he was not poor. People looked up to him. His neighbours idolized him. Nicodemus was a powerful man who came to Jesus to ask him a question.



Worship time

[I stand amazed in the presence](#)

[My hope is built](#)

[Jesus I have never seen](#)

The encounter can be read in **John 3:1-15**.

Nicodemus went to visit Jesus at night probably because he didn't want to be seen. He was afraid

of what others may say and couldn't be seen talking with this carpenter from Nazareth! However, something drew him to Jesus. Nicodemus wanted to understand all that Jesus was saying and had many questions that he wanted answered. He was confused. To him, Jesus was speaking another language. In the passage we can see Jesus is very patient and compassionate towards Nicodemus. He doesn't condemn him in any way but tries to explain the error of his ways to get him to understand the truth of the need to be 'born again' and the power of the Holy Spirit blowing where it pleases.

The next time Nicodemus appears is at the crucifixion where he helps Joseph of Arimathea take down Jesus' body. He also brings about 75 pounds of myrrh and aloes, a huge amount like that would have been used in royal burials so Jesus must have had a profound effect on him. That day Nicodemus was bold in his faith of Christ and no longer thought about his reputation. In fact he did try and defend Jesus in front of the Sanhedrin, **John 7:50-52**.

In some ways the portrait of Nicodemus is like us or at least we may be able to see something of ourselves in him. Perhaps there is a little bit of a Pharisee inside all of us. A little spiritual pride where we think we have got it all together or at least we want it to appear like we do. Nicodemus was a respected member of the community, a regular "church goer", you might say. And, like us, he was drawn to the person of Jesus and wanted to authentically serve the Lord.

Nicodemus loved God, but still struggled to understand the Kingdom of God. Like Nicodemus there are many things that we don't understand, yet Jesus is patient with us and is prepared to take time to help and encourage us to set us on the right path.

We also learn that we must be prepared to be born again. In the Bible we see two baptisms, the first is the baptism of water or baptism of repentance. Next Jesus says be baptized by the Spirit. Jesus shared with Nicodemus that He came into the world, not to judge it as many of the Pharisees had done, but rather to save the world and give eternal life.

Where do we go when we have questions? Do we go to God who says, "Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened" or do we try and work things out for ourselves?

As we continue through our Lenten journey we may, like Nicodemus, have many questions but we also need to seek God and be prepared to listen to what he is saying to us.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you" 1Peter 5:7