



Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

"Nic at Night"

Points from Sunday's Message

Point 1 - Your religious works don't make you righteous.

Point 2 - Your self-righteousness won't save you. You must be born again.

Point 3 - The born-again experience is wrought in God, by the Spirit, through faith.

Key Verse:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

—John 3:16

Discussion Questions:

1. Nicodemus was, by every external measure, one of the most religious and respected men of his day — a Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews, "the teacher of Israel." Yet Jesus told him his credentials couldn't get him into the kingdom. What "credentials" do people today (including us) lean on to feel right with God?

Further Reading: Philippians 3:4-9 — Paul's own list of religious credentials, and what he counted them as.

2. Jesus told Nicodemus, "unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Why do you think this concept was so hard for a respected teacher like Nicodemus to grasp?

Further Reading: Ezekiel 36:25-27 — God's promise of a new heart and new spirit, which Jesus is drawing on.

3. Pastor Miles said self-righteousness produces two things — arrogance ("look what I have done") and judgmentalism ("look what you have not done"). Where do you notice these tendencies in your own heart or relationships, even subtly? How might owning your own need for grace change how you treat someone this week?

4. In his answer to Nicodemus, Jesus repeats the word "believe" seven times. What does it actually mean to "believe" in Jesus — is it just agreeing something is true, or something deeper?

Further Reading: Further reading: James 2:19 and Romans 10:9-10.

5. Jesus points Nicodemus to the strange story of the bronze serpent (Numbers 21:4-9) to explain what it means for him to be "lifted up." Why do you think God so often ties salvation to simple trust rather than effort or achievement?

Further Reading: Numbers 21:4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25.

6. Nicodemus doesn't fully step into the light until John 19, publicly helping bury Jesus after the crucifixion — a long way from his hesitant, nighttime visit. Is there an area of your life where you're still "coming to Jesus by night"? What would a step toward more open, courageous faith look like for you this week?

Further Reading: John 19:38-42.

Use these blended questions for deeper personal reflection, prayer, or small group discussion.