

LESSON TEXT: JOHN 3:1-7

LESSON MATERIAL: NICODEMUS CAME TO JESUS

THERE WAS A PHARISEE MAN, NAMED NICODEMUS, WHO CAME AND TALKED TO JESUS ONE NIGHT. (THE PHARISEES WERE PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT THEIR WAY OF DOING THINGS WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN GOD'S TEACHING, WHICH JESUS WAS TEACHING.)

NICODEMUS CAME TO JESUS THAT NIGHT AND TOLD JESUS, "WE KNOW YOU ARE A TEACHER THAT HAS COME FROM GOD BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE CAN DO THE MIRACLES YOU DO."

JESUS TOLD NICODEMUS, "UNLESS A MAN IS BORN AGAIN (SAVED) HE WILL NOT BE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

NICODEMUS ASKED JESUS, "HOW CAN A MAN BE BORN LIKE A BABY AGAIN WHEN HE IS ALREADY AN OLDER MAN?" (NICODEMUS DID NOT UNDERSTAND THAT JESUS WAS TALKING ABOUT BEING SAVED.)

JESUS TOLD NICODEMUS, "UNLESS A MAN IS FIRST BORN LIKE A BABY AND THEN LATER BORN AGAIN (SAVED BY REPENTANCE AND FAITH IN JESUS), HE WILL NOT BE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD."

JESUS TOLD NICODEMUS, "DON'T BE SURPRISED THAT I SAID, 'YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN.' "

MEMORY VERSE: "YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN."

JOHN 3:7

LESSON TEXT: JOHN 3:15-17

LESSON MATERIAL: GOD'S LOVE

WHILE JESUS WAS TALKING WITH NICODEMUS, JESUS TOLD HIM ABOUT GOD'S LOVE.

JESUS TOLD NICODEMUS THAT ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN THE SAVIOUR WILL NOT PERISH BUT WILL HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

GOD LOVES ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE WHOLE WORLD SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE US JESUS TO BE OUR SAVIOUR. GOD LOVES US SO MUCH THAT ANYONE WHO TAKES JESUS AS THEIR SAVIOUR WILL NOT PERISH BUT WILL HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

GOD LOVES US SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE US JESUS SO THAT THE WHOLE WORLD COULD BE SAVED.

MEMORY VERSE: "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON." (JOHN 3:16)

Nicodemus Talks With Jesus

(John 3:1-21)

I. The man named Nicodemus

- A. A Pharisee (about 6,000)
- B. A ruler in the highest court
- C. A man who wanted to know ^{in Israel} more about Jesus

II Pharisee Practices

- A. Taught that all public worship, prayers, and sacrifice had to be done according to their rules.
- B. Tried to stay away from anyone who was not a Pharisee because those were "unclean"
- C. Hated to be graced by men for what they were doing

III More about Nicodemus

- A. One of the richest men in Jerusalem.
- B. Believed Jesus was a teacher come from God
- C. Came to Jesus at night because he was afraid of the Jews and afraid of losing his importance

IV. Jesus' and Nicodemus' Discussion

- A. Nicodemus knew about Jesus' miracles and told Jesus he knew God was with him.
- B. Jesus told Nicodemus that a man must be born again.
- C. Nicodemus didn't understand; Nicodemus thought Jesus was saying a person had

to go back in their mother's stomach and be born like a baby again.

D. Jesus explained that everybody is born from their mother - that is being born of the flesh.

E. Jesus also explained that being born again is being born of the Spirit (being saved) !

F. Nicodemus asked "How can these things be?"

G. Jesus explained that the Son of man had come down from Heaven ^{sent by God} and would be "lifted up" so that whoever believes in Him would be given eternal life.

H. Jesus explained that whoever believes in God's Son would have everlasting life.

V. Jews thought they were already ready for heaven just because they were God's special people

A. Nicodemus was a teacher in Israel and knew the prophecies about a Saviour (Messiah) to come.

B. Because Nicodemus was a Pharisee, it was very hard for him to understand that something else was needed in his life.

VI. Nicodemus Became a Follower of Jesus

A. Bible doesn't tell us when it happened, but

Nicodemus was saved at
some time after this talk
with Jesus.

B. John 7:50-51

C. John 19:39