

Nick at Night

John 3:1-18

Introduction

- Nicodemus is a Pharisee; a member of the ruling council.
- He is someone who is eager to learn more.
- He is also someone who is very aware of his surroundings

The Context

- Just prior to this Jesus has cleared out the Temple.
- Jesus has peaked Nicodemus' curiosity.

Nicodemus' Initial Inquiry

- Nicodemus' initial inquiry almost seems like he is flattering Jesus
- Jesus cuts to the heart of the matter
- Jesus wants Nicodemus to consider what it takes for someone to be part of the Kingdom of God
- According to Jesus, one needs to be born again

Nicodemus' Second Inquiry

- His second question was: How does this rebirth thing work?
- Jesus' response: A person must be born of water (repentance) and spirit (regeneration)
- What impact does new life in Christ have upon the way we live our lives?
- If we are new creatures in Christ how much of the old has gone? How much of the new has come?

Nicodemus' Third Inquiry

- Nicodemus' third question: How does it happen?
- Jesus' response: "You are Israel's teacher and you do not understand these things?"
- Nicodemus speaks only of what he has been taught; Jesus' teaching is superior because not only has he been sent from God, he is God.

Lessons For Us

- Are we really born again?
 - Believing is more than knowing the right stuff; believing means putting our trust in the fact that Jesus alone is the one who can save us.
- God's love for us
 - God loves us so much that he sent Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for our sin