



Jesus and Nicodemus; John 3: 1-17

Very quietly on tiptoe, Nicodemus, the Pharisee, crept out at night to meet Jesus. Pharisees, such as Nicodemus, studied God's laws and tried to keep all the rules. Jesus angered the Pharisees because he taught about God's love and not about God's laws. Nicodemus liked Jesus and the things he taught.

"Psst! Jesus! Over here!" Nicodemus called Jesus over into the shadows. "I know you are from God. You teach about God's love, and you heal people."

"Yes," Jesus replied, "but to know God, you have to be born again from above."

"What?" Nicodemus whispered. "You can only be born once. You can't have two birthdays, can you?"

Jesus answered firmly, but with a smile, “You’re born once as a baby. But you can be born again as a child of God. You must become a new person. You must let God’s Spirit get inside of you.”

Nicodemus stared at Jesus in surprise. He looked all around. He did not want any of the other Pharisees to know he was talking to Jesus.

Jesus continued, “God’s Spirit is like the wind. You can’t see the wind, but you can see what the wind does. You won’t look any different if you let God’s Spirit grow inside of you. But you will feel different. And you will care much more about other people.”

“You teach about God. You should understand,” Jesus continued. “Anyone who believes in me will be born again and will have new life. And God will know.”

Nicodemus thought hard, stroking his beard. “Born again...new life...I don’t quite understand yet!”

“I will say this clearly,” said Jesus. God loves the world—so God sent his Son. Whoever believes in the Son will not die, but will have eternal life with God. I’m not here to punish the world. I’m here to save it.”

Poor Nicodemus. He soon discovered that sometimes it was difficult to understand Jesus’ words. Even as a teacher, Nicodemus was confused a bit. What Jesus told him was a lot of new information. No one had ever talked about these things before. But, the good news is, that after a bit more conversation with Jesus that night, Nicodemus began to understand all the words Jesus had spoken to him.