

## ***Nicodemus – John 3:1-5***

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### **Introduction**

1. Nicodemus was an interesting man and disciple. Many have used John 3 and the story of Nicodemus to get out of baptism; while others use him to get into baptism. We need to study Nicodemus and see what text really says before we make conclusions.

### **I. Nicodemus**

#### **a. Facts**

- i. Nicodemus was a Pharisee. Phariseeism was a strict religious sect (Paul was a Pharisee too).
- ii. Nicodemus was also a ruler of the Sanhedrin which had seventy members.
- iii. Nicodemus was a master teacher like Gamaliel (John 3:10). We would call him a bible scholar. He was rich and powerful.
- iv. Jesus did not talk to Nicodemus like he did others (like the woman at Jacob's well – John 4). Jesus knew Nicodemus had knowledge and did his homework.
- v. Nicodemus came at night. Wise or cowardly? He did come! He wanted something better than a bankrupt legalistic Israel.

### **II. New Birth**

#### **a. Obey! Act!**

- i. Jesus shocks us when he takes Nicodemus "head-on." Jesus repeated three times, "You must be born again." Nicodemus knew this was baptism (Luke 7:30).
- ii. Jesus wanted him and the other Pharisees to act, to obey! Later Jesus discusses the Holy Spirit in this chapter comparing Him to the wind. Wind is not explained; it is obeyed (John 3:11-12).
- iii. Few connect John 3:16 with Nicodemus.

### **III. More On Nicodemus**

#### **a. His Generosity**

- i. Nicodemus is found in John 7:45-53 where he objects to the chief priests and Pharisees. He is slowly making progress.
- ii. In John 19 he joins Joseph of Arimathea to bury Jesus. He was generous bringing large amounts of spices.
- iii. Do you know what brought him out of hiding? The cross of Christ! He watched Him die and it hit him right in the heart.