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For next time §37

## Night Visit from a Pharisee

Week 21: John 3:1-21 §36



John 3:1-21

Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;

What had just happened?

Who were the Pharisees?

2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, " Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Why didn't Jesus just say "Yes, I am from God; why don't you follow me?"

Was this Pharisee trying to flatter Jesus, - or do you think Jesus heard his statement as a comment on what it takes to see what God is up to?

4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 "

*That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

*What is Jesus talking about here?*

*7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

*What does this comparison say about spiritual birth?*

*9 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? 11 "Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony. 12 "If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 " No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. 14 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.*

*What is Jesus saying here about the difference between Him and the Pharisees? How does this comparison apply to us?*

*What does the reference to lifting up the Serpent refer to? (See Numbers 21:6-9)*

*16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 " He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 " For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."*

*Note the context of this passage and the love for light or darkness –*

*Why does everything hang on believing in the Son?? Read Chapter 6:44-45...how does this support the need for believing in the Son?*