



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - January 27, 2013

Sermon

Conversations with Jesus-
Who did Jesus talk with
and what does this teach
us?

Nicodemus

John 3:1-16

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 1/28/13

John 3:1-2

Nicodemus was a Pharisee. We are typically taught to distrust the Pharisees because they were the ones who were “holier than thou” and would have a large part in crucifying Jesus. But Nicodemus has some questions for Jesus and he comes to him in the dark of the night. He probably didn’t want any of his colleagues to know he was having a conversation with Jesus. Right off the bat, Nicodemus calls Jesus, Rabbi, and talks to him. What questions do you have of Jesus? Are you willing to go to him and ask him your questions?

Tuesday 1/29/13

John 3:3

Jesus is willing to converse with Nicodemus even though it is at an odd hour and even though Nicodemus is a Pharisee. He answers Nicodemus by telling him that he needs to be born again, otherwise he will not see the kingdom of heaven. What does this mean? Have you ever heard the term, “born again?” How was this used? How is it understood? Is this term still used today? Is it effective?

Wednesday 1/30/13

John 3:4

You gotta love Nicodemus’ honesty and innocence. He doesn’t understand Jesus’ statement but he tries. He asks how can a man be born again? Can he enter his mother’s womb a second time? This is a funny question because now a man is many times bigger than he was at birth. Obviously he cannot enter his mother’s womb as an adult male! But Nicodemus is willing to admit he doesn’t understand and he does want to understand Jesus, so he keeps the conversation going. He admits he doesn’t get it by this silly question, but he is willing to admit it to Jesus. Are you willing to admit when you don’t understand Jesus? Are you willing to ask silly questions?



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

Why did Nicodemus go to Jesus in the dark of the night?

When do you talk with Jesus?

What did you learn about Nicodemus' conversation with Jesus that can help you talk with Jesus?

Are you talking to Jesus every day?

Thursday 1/31/13
John 3:5-8

Jesus is not taken back by Nicodemus' question. He tries to answer him and he does. He talks about a different kind of birth--one of water and the Spirit. Unless a person is born again into this new kind of birth, he or she cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Jesus also indicates that this kind of birth is different than our fleshly birth. It is a spiritual one. Jesus speaks about the unpredictable movement of the Spirit--it is like the wind in many ways. Is the Spirit of God breathing on you? How do you know?

Friday 2/1/13
John 3:9-15

Nicodemus still does not understand Jesus and he readily and simply admits it. Jesus questions how he cannot understand with all the training he received in becoming a Pharisee. This might be a teaching moment for all Pharisees and all of us who are "in the church." Just because we are in the church does not mean we automatically understand Jesus' ways all the time! He also refers back to Moses, their great ancestor, and compares himself to Moses when he lifted up the serpent to save the people of his day. Read Numbers 21 to learn more about this story. How is Jesus like Moses? How is he better? What does Jesus mean to you?

Saturday 2/2/13
John 3:16

Without Nicodemus and his willingness to converse with Jesus and admit that he didn't understand him, we would not have this most important and most recognizable verse in all of scripture. John 3:16 is known by just about everybody, even outside the church! What does this verse mean to you? How does knowing Nicodemus' conversation with Jesus bring more meaning to this verse? Repeat this verse every day for a week and think more deeply about what these important words mean to you!