



JOURNEY with JESUS

Convicted and Transformed

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Prayer

Dear Father, as we study your word, please let it be the transformative agent that brings us into a deeper relationship and a closer walk with you. Bless our souls to seek the light that your son brings to our lives both now and forever. Amen.

John 3:1-3

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

Have you ever denied someone that you had a strong affinity toward, simply because they didn't quite fit into the crowd that you were currently a part of? Well, I have. It is with great conviction that I confess to committing such a hypocritical act. I believe that Nicodemus coming to Jesus during the night was doing this very thing. He was drawn to Christ and was seeking a deeper and more personal relationship with him. However, Jesus did not quite fit into Nicodemus' group of peers. He obviously wanted to get to know Jesus better, but he was not willing, at that time, to go out on a limb and risk his position and prestige among his religious contemporaries.

Nicodemus, much like me in my own experience, was extremely convicted. Following his encounter with the Lord he became a transformed man.

We see in John 3 that he came by night. But in John 19 we can clearly see that a transformation has taken place. He has been exposed to the true light. This transformation is acted out in a physical sense. After Jesus was wrongfully crucified, advocated by the religious leaders that Nicodemus was hiding from, he boldly goes along with Joseph of Arimathea to petition Pilate for the body of Jesus. In broad daylight, he himself brought a 75-pound mixture of aloe and myrrh to wrap Jesus's body. Nicodemus boldly and reverently helped carry the body of Jesus into the tomb.

Sometimes we must fail to win. In the end Nicodemus won, because he chose Jesus over the approval of people.

Questions

- Have you ever denied someone important to you, simply because you feared losing the approval of others?
- How did that act of denial make you feel afterwards?
- Did this incident become the foundation of a life changing opportunity for you?