



## Lesson 17: *Jesus and Nicodemus* (Condensed Version)

### Objectives: To explain that:

- Jesus explains to Nicodemus that to see the Kingdom of God, one must be "born again." This does not mean born again as a baby, but born "from above", from God's Holy Spirit.
- We have all sinned and need God's forgiveness. We can repent and place our faith in Jesus at any time, and receive his forgiveness.
- When we are baptized, we receive forgiveness and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We have been given new life in Christ and are then a new creation.

### "I Wonder" Questions:

What do you see in this picture? (Two men outside in the evening...)

Is there anything you wonder about?

I wonder who these two men are.

I wonder what they are talking about.

Let's find out more in our story....

### Lesson Summary:

Today our Bible story takes us into the night in the city of Jerusalem. There was a man named Nicodemus. He was a Pharisee. The Pharisees were a powerful religious group in Israel. Nicodemus admired Jesus and was curious about the things that Jesus was teaching. Nicodemus wanted to know more about the Kingdom of God. Jesus told him that to see the Kingdom of God he must be born again, born from above. Nicodemus was confused and asked, "How can a grown man be born again? Surely he does not have to become a baby again?" Jesus told Nicodemus that one must be born from God's Holy Spirit, from above. The Bible tells us that when we repent of our sins, believe in Jesus and are baptized, we have God's Holy Spirit living in us and we have new life in Christ. Now that's GOOD NEWS!

**Suggested Questions: What do we learn about Jesus in this story?** (Jesus is an amazing teacher. He is willing to teach anyone who is willing to hear. He offers the way to the Kingdom of Heaven. He teaches people spiritual truths.)

- Who was Nicodemus? (a man, someone who liked Jesus, a Pharisee, religious teacher)
- What did Nicodemus think when Jesus said that a person must be born again, born from above, to see the Kingdom of God? (He thought that Jesus meant that you had to become a baby again.)
- What was Jesus really telling Nicodemus about when he said that a person must be born a second time? (He meant you must be born from above. God gives you new life by giving you the Holy Spirit from Heaven, and then you are born again.)
- Why do people need to be born again? (Everyone has a sinful nature and falls short of the glory of God. Therefore we need to repent and be forgiven of our sins, and have new life, so that we can obey and follow Jesus. When we believe in Jesus and are baptized, we have God's Holy Spirit living in us and we have new life in Christ - eternal life.)

**Bible Memory Verse:** "No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." (John 3:3 NIV)