

## Jesus the Savior of the World John 3:1-18

The most well-known, most loved, most memorized verse in all of Scripture is found here in John Ch. 3 – [John 3:16](#).

We know the verse well, but do we know the context (the who, what, where, when, & why behind it)? [And do we know the impact it had when first spoken?](#)

**John 3:1-18** – Jesus’ interaction with Nicodemus

- Who spoke the words of John 3:16? [Jesus Himself!](#)
- Who were the original recipients of these spoken words? Only Nicodemus
- What was the context? [A private, secretive, meeting between them.](#)
- What was said before that led to these famous words? Words of rebirth!
- Where were these words spoken? In Jerusalem!
- When were these words spoken? [At night, during the Passover Feast!](#)
- Why were these words spoken? To answer the question Nicodemus didn’t even ask! The question that is the most important question of all!

Nicodemus came to Jesus much like many of us do, with some knowledge, with some belief, with some level of curiosity or inquiry, hesitant yet expectant.

Vs. 2 – Nicodemus came to Jesus & said [“Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.”](#) Nicodemus knew there was more to Jesus than meets the eye!

What were the next words from Nicodemus going to be? We’ll never know!

But what Nicodemus didn’t know, was that what Jesus was going to say next would answer the most important question of all, *“How does one see, and enter, the Kingdom of God (how do we get to experience eternity in heaven)?*

Jesus’ answer that night to Nicodemus literally shook heaven and earth. [The gateway to heaven was revealed, and the insufficiencies of man were exposed!](#)

There was nothing that Nicodemus, or anyone else, could do or bring before Jesus, [to qualify them for heaven.](#) And Nicodemus had a lot to offer!

His resume was long: He was a Pharisee, a member of the Sanhedrin, a prominent teacher. He was wealthy, knowledgeable, wise. He witnessed Jesus’ miracles & had now had a face-to-face encounter with Him!

[If anyone had a worthy resume, it would have been Nicodemus!](#) And that doesn’t even take into consideration what came after this encounter in John 3.

Nicodemus defended Jesus later on in His ministry and protected Him from an unfair arrest, that could have led to far worse – [John 7:44-52](#).

Nicodemus also, when Jesus died, made sure He had a proper burial, and an extravagant one at that – [John 19:39-40](#). [He was a good & upright man!](#)

But is that enough? We are never told if Nicodemus became a true believer, or if his actions were still just the result of him being a good Pharisee.

There’s a difference between true faith & religion, & it all comes down to Jesus’ words here in John 3. **Vs. 3 - “Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”** **Vs. 6 - “Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”**

[True faith is born into us by the Holy Spirit, & our good works flow out of that new identity!](#) Whereas in religion, humanity makes their best attempts at good works in order to qualifying themselves before God!

Nicodemus’ resume and good works is not enough to receive/merit eternal life! And neither is yours or mine!

Jesus’ words here are clear:

- [It’s not about your physical birth](#) – Being born a Jew is not enough!  
**Romans 9:6 – “Not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel”**
- It’s not about your earthly wealth/possessions, or even how you use it!  
**Matthew 19:24 – “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”**
- [It’s not about your own righteousness](#) – Pharisees have the hardest time!  
**Matthew 23:27 – Woe to you Pharisees... You whitewashed tombs...**
- It’s not about how much you know – Demons know Jesus’ true identity -  
**James 2:19.** And knowledge can be all about us – **1 Corinthians 8:1**
- It’s not about power/influence – Earthly kings rise & fall – **Daniel 2:21!**
- [It’s not about religion](#) – Jesus was crucified in the name of religion!
- [It’s not about having an encounter with Jesus](#) – Nicodemus, and countless others had encounters with Him and walked away!

It’s not about what we do, or have done, for Jesus – it’s about what He’s done for us, and what the Holy Spirit will do through our rebirth!

Jesus is the Savior of the World, but His salvation comes only through faith in His death & resurrection. [That faith is only made possible by being born again!](#)

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