

This week...

Scripture: John 3:1-9; 7:50-52; 19:38-42

**Monday** John 3:1-2 “*Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, ‘Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.’*”

Names and words are fun to explore. Nicodemus can be translated as “victorious among his people”. Why he was given this name is not known, but it certainly proved to be true as he became victorious through Jesus. Why did he come to Jesus at night? Notice, too, that many of the Pharisees knew Jesus had come from God, but few accepted Him as Lord. Many today know Jesus is from God, but they choose not to follow Him. Are you a true follower or only one who knows?

**Tuesday** John 3:3 “*In reply Jesus declared, ‘I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.’*”

Everyone has her own definition about how one enters the kingdom of God, but Jesus declares that He speaks truth here concerning those who will enter the kingdom. What is the truth that He unfolds in John chapter 3? We may invent all sorts of ways to see the kingdom, but if it’s not God’s way it won’t happen.

**Wednesday** John 7:50-52 “*Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, ‘Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to*

*find out what he is doing?’ They replied, ‘Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.’”*

Spend some time meditating on Nicodemus’ transformation from a secret searcher of truth who does so by night to one who begins to openly identify with Jesus’ teaching and even defend Him before the religious community.

**Thursday** John 19:38-39 “*Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night.*”

By the end of Jesus’ life and ministry Nicodemus had become a disciple willing to risk his reputation and life for his faith in Christ. This important religious leader examined Jesus’ teaching and believed it to be truth from God. Is your faith in Christ such that you are willing to represent Him when it is not popular, politically correct, or safe? Pray about your level of commitment, and tell God where you honestly stand regarding your witness and service.

**Friday** John 19:39b “*Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.*”

This was an extremely expensive and rare gift. Why did Nicodemus do this? Explore other NT examples of folks offering expensive and rare gifts to the Lord. Think and pray about the gifts you offer to the Lord? What do they represent, and what do they say about you?