

Conversations Series
Nicodemus
08/14/21
Newport News

Opening/Introduction

-read John 3:1-17

-pray

-Chris' seven year anniversary...

-(some comments about the series)

-Tonight we are going to explore the 3 desires of Nicodemus

- 1. ...wanted to be with Jesus**
- 2. ...wanted to talk to Jesus**
- 3. ...wanted to live for Jesus**

Nicodemus wanted to be with Jesus. (intimacy)

-Just because He can meet you where you are doesn't mean He stops asking you to come to where He is. (verse 2 - JC doesn't look for him)

-Hebrews 10:25 (ref)

-Online church is wonderful...but it can't be your new normal.

- Evangelistic**
- Benevolent**
- Informative**
- Timeless**
- Supplemental**

-Verse 1

-emptiness = title, position, wealth, and etc. (Nicodemus' titles) - secular

-emptiness = religious intellectualism (Nicodemus' religion) - false sacredness (people bring their secular mindset to sacred places)

-people chose a Rabbi to follow who they believed had the best interpretation of the Mosaic Law (Nicodemus)

-John 3:2 “God is with you...” meaning He is on your side (sound familiar!)

-Luke 24:32 (passion or pride...we have to choose) (ref)

-If we neglect our need to be with Jesus, not only will our spiritual lives suffer greatly, but our children will inherit a form of Christianity that is broken.

-Jesus' response immediately challenges Nicodemus. He is saying it's not about information...religion is supposed to be first about a relationship. Jesus is telling Nicodemus he has spent his entire life seeking to learn about religion instead of the seeking the greater treasure: being with His Savior!

Nicodemus wanted to talk to Jesus. (knowledge)

-Are you willing to let Jesus change your mind? (anything for the last 20 years...if not you are either the second coming of JC or...)

-When the knowledge we gain is born out of a loving relationship with Jesus, we tend to use that knowledge in a more loving way toward others! (serving vs. competing AND love vs. intellectual prowess)

-John 3:3, 5, and 11 in KJV

-“Verily, Verily...”

1.“Amen” is a transliteration of a Hebrew word “Aman”

2.For us it means “the food is getting cold, let’s eat!”

3.To Nicodemus, it meant...to the degree that you trust God...trust this...

⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God (Aman El), keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands. Deuteronomy 7:9

-John 3:5-8

-Many of the things Jesus wants to change our minds about will “feel” true before they “comprehend” true!

-(talk here about how hard this is especially for Western, American culture)

-A great prayer: “Jesus, show me something in my thinking that is wrong.”

Nicodemus wanted to live for Jesus. (purpose)

-John 7:50-52

-John 19:38-42

-(the Bible tells a story goes...)

Band

-read Luray Caverns piece...

Close

-In the moment...