

Nicodemus Script

Nicodemus: Oh—you surprised me! Not many people are out in the streets at this time of night. Most houses are closed up tight.

Teacher: *(Speaking in hushed tones)* I'm sorry, sir. I didn't mean to frighten you. I have a group of kids here. They're followers of Jesus too. We'd love it if you'd come and tell us about your visit with Jesus.

Nicodemus: *(Looking around)* Is this a safe place?

Teacher: It is, sir.

Nicodemus: *(Relaxing)* Very well. I accept your invitation. *(To the kids)* Shalom, young disciples!

Teacher: Shalom, great teacher of Israel! It was so brave for you, a Pharisee, to visit Jesus. Don't most Pharisees consider Jesus their greatest enemy?

Nicodemus: Sadly, they do. I cannot judge them. I can only say that my heart has long burned with desire to speak to this young rabbi face to face. No one can do the things he does unless God is with him. Why, he may be mightier than Moses himself! God is in every word he speaks, in every miracle he performs. The spirit of God rests on him. He is...I believe he is the very Messiah we have waited for these hundreds of years! *(Pauses.)* I can hardly believe those words just came from my mouth!

Teacher: Your talk with Jesus must have been helpful!

Nicodemus: *(Hesitating)* Well, at first it I was completely confused. He spoke to me plainly enough, but his words made no sense at all.

Teacher: What do you mean?

Nicodemus: I hadn't even asked him a question yet, when Jesus declared, "No one can see God's kingdom without being born again." All I could think was, *I'm an old man! I can't go back inside my mother's belly and be born all over again!*

Teacher: Did Jesus explain what he meant?

Nicodemus: Yes. Eventually I understood. He said that we have to be born of water and of the Spirit. He was talking about a *heavenly* rebirth. Something only God can give us through the Spirit.

Teacher: I see. That makes sense.

Nicodemus: Yes! We don't know everything about the Spirit of God, but I understand that it works through Jesus. Look at how the Spirit of God is alive in everything he does! Jesus wants us to believe in him, because he comes from God the Father.

Teacher: So you believe that Jesus is God's Son?

Nicodemus: Yes, I do. Jesus told me so himself. God loved the world so much that he sent Jesus, his one and only Son to us. And ★ *everyone who believes in Jesus will have eternal life.* That means it's not enough to be born a Jew, which will be a big shock to my people, and many of them won't like it! We've always believed that we'd be included in heaven just because we're sons and daughters of Abraham. Now Jesus has made it plain that just being Jewish isn't enough. We must believe in God's Son, Jesus. That's what my Pharisee friends don't understand. They're so bound up in their own pride that they can't see that in Jesus, God's doing a whole new thing. Because of Jesus, the world will never be the same!

Teacher: Do you think you can persuade them to listen to Jesus like you did?

Nicodemus: *(Shaking his head)* I don't know. I just don't know. You see, we Pharisees think we have the answers about everything. None of us was expecting God to send the Messiah in this way. I hope I can get at least some of them to listen to me...to listen to Jesus. Now that I know this great truth, I want to share it with anyone who will listen. But faith only comes to those whose hearts are open.

Teacher: I see what you mean.

Nicodemus: The night grows later and later. I must return to my home. But it has been wonderful to meet you young disciples and tell you what I know of Jesus. Shalom, my young friends!

Teacher: Shalom, Nicodemus! Kids, say "shalom" to Nicodemus.

(Nicodemus exits.)