

# Out of Darkness & Into the Light

(John 3:1-21)

- Introduction:
1. We're introduced to a great story that unfolds in the book of John about a man named Nicodemus.
  2. His story was so compelling a song was written about him by William T. Sleeper, entitled, "You Must Be Born Again."
    - a. A ruler once came to Jesus by night  
To ask Him the way of salvation and light;  
The Master made answer in words true and plain,  
"Ye must be born again."
  3. In this lesson, I would like us to see a progression in Nicodemus' life that brought him out of the darkness and into the light.

## I. Nicodemus Heard Jesus

- A. (John 3:1-21).
- B. Note that the text says that Nicodemus came to Jesus by night.
  1. If this were the only place that is mentioned, one might think he got off work late or some other benign reason.
  2. However, it's mentioned all three times in Scripture when Nicodemus is mentioned.
- C. I am led to believe he was afraid to be seen – he had much to lose.
- D. Jesus teaches him about the new birth and how to be saved.

## II. Nicodemus Helped Jesus

- A. (John 7:45-52).
- B. The Nicodemus's fellow rulers scoffed at the idea of Jesus being the Messiah, and put a great deal of peer pressure on him.
- C. But in spite of the peer pressure, Nicodemus defends Jesus.

## III. Nicodemus Honored Jesus

- A. (John 19:38-42).
- B. Following Jesus' death, Nicodemus comes out of the shadows and makes everyone aware of where he stands.
- C. Nicodemus, along with Joseph of Arimathea asked for the body of Jesus and prepared it for burial.

- Conclusion:
1. Note the progression in Nicodemus' life - Darkness to light.
  2. Maybe this describes your story.
  4. Do you know enough about Jesus that you can't turn your back on him, but you're still lurking in the shadows?
  5. Be courageous and live in the light!