

Nicodemus: A Pharisee Worth Following

(John 3:1-16)

- Introduction:
1. Throughout the New Testament, the Pharisees were usually held up by the Lord as an example of hypocrisy and a model of religious arrogance.
 2. However, the Bible mentions one Pharisee by name who is an exception to the rule.
 3. Although he is mentioned only three times in the New Testament, in each instance, he's worthy of our notice and imitation.

I. Who Were The Pharisees

- A. 2nd Century B.C.
- B. Followed the Old Testament and Oral Tradition (Matthew 15:7-9).
- C. Matthew 23:3, 15, 33.
- D. Came to be known as pretentious, self-righteous and a term of derision.

II. Nicodemus B He Came To Christ

- A. (John 3:1).
- B. Why he came at night, nobody knows for sure.
 1. It may have been totally unrelated to his fear.
 2. It may have been because he was afraid (John 12:42-43).
- C. However, the very fact that he came to Jesus shows a great deal of humility.
- D. He also exhibited honesty (John 3:2).
- E. If one is to come to Christ today, he must possess humility and honesty.

III. Nicodemus B He Spoke For Christ

- A. (John 7:50-51).
- B. Do we have the courage to stand before our peers and speak out for Jesus?
- C. While we cannot speak for the person of Jesus as Nicodemus was able to do, we can speak for the words of Jesus.
 1. The Plan of Salvation.
 2. The Uniqueness of the church.
 3. The Worship of the church.
 4. Purity of life expected of Christians.

IV. Nicodemus B He Honored Christ

- A. (John 19:39).
- B. Today, we can honor Christ by our words and our deeds.
- C. (Matthew 5:13-16).
- D. (Ephesians 3:21).

- Conclusion:
1. Nicodemus serves as an excellent example for us.
 2. From a fearful beginning to a bold public stand for Jesus, Nicodemus challenges us to be just as bold and helpful to Jesus.