

RESCUE STORY

Part 4.0 Rescued from SKEPTICISM John 3, 7, 19

Nicodemus' three steps of Faith in Jesus

Nicodemus the SUSPICIOUS John 3:1-15

- He visits Jesus during the NIGHT
- He views Jesus as a special HUMAN
- He seeks for Jesus to clarify His IDENTITY
- Jesus responds with a SPIRITUAL answer

Nicodemus the SUPPORTIVE John 7:45-52

- He seeks to protect Jesus' CIVIL rights
- He receives PUSHBACK from his peers
- He goes SILENT

Nicodemus the STALWART John 19:38-41

- He joins a fellow RELIGIOUS LEADER
- He PUBLICALLY cares for body and burial of Jesus
- He RISKS himself for Jesus

Auburn Grace Community Church – April 5, 2020

Life Group Discussion Questions – April 5, 2020

John 19:38-39 *After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body. Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight.*

QUICK REVIEW

1. Pastor Phil emphasized that “God’s people don’t respond to cultural crises the way culture responds to cultural crises.” In what practical ways can we safely demonstrate to those outside the faith that we are indeed “different” and are willing to go the extra mile? (see Matthew 5:38-42)
2. Imagine you were a member of the original “Team Jesus.” Given your gifts and abilities, what role(s) do you think you would have assumed? Would there be any differences in your role(s) on your current team?

MY STORY

1. What was your understanding of who Jesus was before you came to Him in faith? What were some of the inaccuracies of your views? How did you come to hold these views?
2. Was there a situation in your life when you had an opportunity to share Jesus in some way but ultimately shrunk back? Were you afraid they would ask questions you couldn’t answer? Were you struggling with your own faith? Were you not “trained” how to share Him? How can you learn to be confident and take the initiative to start a spiritual conversation?

GOING DEEP

1. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus had similar backgrounds. What were they? How was it that they both belonged to groups that opposed Jesus and His teaching and yet still had faith in Him? What groups did they belong to? Where do you see the evidences of their faith?
2. What keeps us as “secret disciples” like Joseph and Nicodemus? Do we really believe that if we confess Jesus before men, we are truly His disciples and if we don’t confess Him, we are not?
3. Read John 4:42. The Samaritan people said they believed initially and then really believed when they “heard for themselves.” Their personal first-hand account was the deal-closer. Were they skeptical at first? Discuss how this is still prevalent in our faith journeys today. How can we shorten the distance between being suspicious of Jesus’ and His claims to being an “all-in,” trusting disciple?
4. In Matthew 9:37, Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” Does this imply that people are more open than we think? How does this statement show that Christianity is a missionary faith? How can being supportive of sending ministries move us towards being stalwarts of Christianity?

PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for you to remember?