

TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: Encounters
Message: The Inquisitive
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: July 20, 2025

Nicodemus risked a lot to meet with Jesus. As a Pharisee and religious expert, his fellow leaders would see this as consorting with the enemy! Nicodemus shows real humility and a desire for truth, which is rare and admirable. This is an essential attitude in finding and having a true friendship with God.

And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

James 4:6 (NLT)

Take a moment to ask God to help you identify an area of your life where your pride holds you back from humbly seeking truth.

For instance, it could be a religious view that you have that isn't necessarily supported by the Bible.

Or maybe a family member or friend has challenged you on something, and your response is defensive rather than open to honestly evaluating it.

Perhaps you have political beliefs tied to a tradition or group, and you are hesitant to evaluate them for fear of being ostracized.

Here is a prayer that sets us up to humbly learn...

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Psalm 139:23–24 (NLT)

How can you live out humility this week as a devoted follower of Jesus?

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NLT – New Living Translation

MESSAGE NOTES



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¹ There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. ² After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.” ³ Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.” ⁴ “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?” ⁵ Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.”

John 3:1–5 (NLT)

Jesus wants Nicodemus (and all of us) to know that a true friendship with God is something more than information, tradition, or religious practices.

Everyone comes into “the Kingdom of God” the same way – by humbly accepting God’s invitation through Jesus.

¹⁶ For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16–17 (NLT)

Being born of the water and the Spirit gives us two important aspects of genuine faith in Jesus:

1. Water represents repentance.

“The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!”

Mark 1:15 (NLT)

I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Matthew 3:11 (NLT)

2. The Spirit allows us to begin a new life – to be reborn.

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

¹³ For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Colossians 1:13–14 (NLT)

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT)