

sermonnotes

Encountered by Jesus – Part 5



It is possible to imitate Christian behavior with religious talk, activities, and church attendance, yet never have a salvation encounter with Jesus.

Jesus has not called us to simply commit to a lifestyle of religious behaviors. He has called us into a personal, life-changing relationship with Him.

We have a choice: Religion or Relationship

John 3:1–8

The Nicodemus Dilemma

- He was a _____ man. (3:1) He was a Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin.
- He was a _____ man. (3:1, 10) He was a leader and ruler of the Jews.
- He was a _____ man. (3:2) He came to Jesus searching for answers.
- He was a _____ man. (3:4,9) He had questions. How can an old man change?

The Encounter

- Not only was Nicodemus respected, but he came to Jesus respectfully. (vs. 2)

- He expressed a kind of faith, but it was not a true saving faith. (vs. 2,3)
- Jesus saw past the religious exterior and identified the need of the heart. (vs. 3)
- Nicodemus was confused by Jesus' talk about a spiritual rebirth. (v. 4)

Even though Nicodemus was confused, in reality Jesus presented a simple spiritual principle. We have a choice. We can be born once and die twice, or we can be born twice and die once.

The Response – We Have A Choice

- Choose to go to Jesus in your _____.
- Choose to understand that Jesus sees past our behavior and into our _____.
- Choose to acknowledge that He knows what we _____ better than ourselves.
- Choose a _____ with Jesus over our empty, religious activities for Him.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

Answers: religious; respected; restless; reluctant; dark night; heart; need; relationship



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