

Read the passage below carefully through the eyes of Nicodemus, an important Jewish leader. Why did you come to Jesus at night time? Jesus gives a long explanation, what do you understand by the end of this encounter?

Read this passage again as if you were Jesus. Did you already know Nicodemus, or was he a stranger? How did you feel when Nicodemus approached you that night? Why did he talk about being born again?

Read for a third time, again as if you were Nicodemus. How might you explain what Jesus has said to your fellow Pharisees?

Bible Passage - from John 3: verses 1-13

There was a Jewish leader named Nicodemus, who belonged to the party of the Pharisees. One night he went to Jesus and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher sent by God. No one could perform the miracles you are doing unless God were with him."

Jesus answered, "I am telling you the truth; no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again."

"How can a grown man be born again?" Nicodemus asked. "He certainly cannot enter his mother's womb and be born a second time!"

"I am telling you the truth," replied Jesus. "No one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. A person is born physically of human parents, but is born spiritually of the Spirit. Do not be surprised because I tell you that you must all be born again. The wind blows wherever it wishes; you hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. It is like that with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

"How can this be?" asked Nicodemus.

Jesus answered, "You are a great teacher in Israel, and you don't know this? I am telling you the truth: we speak of what we know and report what we have seen, yet none of you is willing to accept our message. You do not believe me when I tell you about the things of this world; how will you ever believe me then, when I tell you about the things of heaven? And no one has ever gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, who came down from heaven."

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Further thoughts:

This encounter is only recorded in the gospel of John, why didn't the other gospel writers record this?

What would the other Pharisees have thought if Nicodemus shared this encounter with them?

Does this story have any relevance to us now in the 21st Century?