

TRANSFORMATION OF A DISCIPLE

-Ryan Parsons-

John chapter three begins with the account of a man approaching Jesus. It says: "Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night...(John 3: 1-2). Many have concluded that Nicodemus was being sly by approaching Jesus at night. He likely didn't want to ruin his reputation among the religious leaders by not only speaking with Jesus, but also by showing him respect. Notice that he calls Jesus "Rabbi" (vs. 2) and acknowledges that God must be with him. This nighttime conversation is the first view we have of Nicodemus.

The next account we have of him is in John 7. In a heated conversation among the religious leaders about a failed attempt to arrest Jesus, Nicodemus seems to step beyond covert conversations with Jesus to stick up for him.

John 7: 50-52

50 Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, 51 "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" 52 They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

Our last interaction with Nicodemus is after the death of Jesus. He along with Joseph of Arimathea receive, prepare the body, and bury Jesus in the garden tomb. In a very public way, he honors Jesus once again.

John 19: 39-40

Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

In the life of Nicodemus we see an amazing transformation. A man, once known for being ashamed to be associated with Jesus, publicly morphed into one who would be known as a disciple who honored Jesus in his death. One doesn't get to that point without some deep and significant change within his life and soul.

The question for us is this: How has observing, interacting, and walking with Jesus changed us? Discipleship implies a transformation of not only the soul, but the entire life. We all start in different places, but we are all called to a transformation that leads us away from our old life to progressively being more like Christ. This never stops. May God bless us as we continue to be transformed into disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Keep Studying,
Ryan