

# HOPE FOR THE OVERLY RELIGIOUS

## ABOUT NICODEMUS

## DEPICTED IN ART

## POP CULTURE

## SANHEDRIN

### JOHN 3:1-21

*1 After dark one evening, a Jewish religious leader named Nicodemus, a Pharisee, 2 came to speak with Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are proof enough that God is with you." 3 Jesus replied, "I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never 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, "The truth is, **no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.** 6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven. 7 So don't be surprised at my statement that you must be born again. 8 Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit." 9 "What do you mean?" Nicodemus asked. 10 Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? 11 I assure you, I am telling you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe us. 12 But if you don't even believe me when I tell you about things that happen here on earth, how can you possibly believe if I tell you what is going on in heaven? 13 For only I, the Son of Man, have come to earth and will return to heaven again. 14 And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so I, the Son of Man, must be lifted up on a pole, 15 so that everyone who believes in me will have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it. 18 "There is no judgment awaiting those who trust him. But those who do not trust him have already been judged for not believing in the only Son of God. 19 Their judgment is based on this fact: The light from heaven came into the world, **but they loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.** 20 They hate the light because they want to sin in the darkness. They stay away from the light for fear their sins will be exposed and they will be punished. 21 But those who do what is right come to the light gladly, so everyone can see that they are doing what God wants.*

### LESSONS LEARNED FROM AN OVERLY RELIGIOUS SEEKER:

If we seek God....truly seek Him, we **WILL** find Him!

*Deuteronomy 4:29*

29 But from there you will search again for the Lord your God. And if you search for him with all your heart and soul, you will find him.

*Jeremiah 29:12-14*

*12 In those days when you pray, I will listen. 13 If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. 14 I will be found by you," says the Lord. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land."*

*Isaiah 55:6-7*

*6 Seek the Lord while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near. 7 Let the wicked change their ways and banish the very thought of doing wrong. Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously.*

*Matthew 7:7-8*

*7 "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*

**When we seek God, we find God. When we find God, we choose whether or not we will engage Him fully in the light or whether we will remain in the shadows....watching from a distance.**

SITUATION #1 (JOHN 3)

**Some of us immediately step into the light of God's grace. For some it is more gradual as we grow in grace and understanding, humbling ourselves to the convicting and compelling work of the Holy Spirit.**

SITUATION #2 (JOHN 7)

**Eventually, we all choose to radically live in the light of God's truth or we reject the truth of Christ's forgiveness and mission.**

SITUATION #3 (JOHN 19)

**NEXT STEPS**

Life groups

Count on Me to pray for our zoning request with the county!

Memorize John 3:16-17

I am choosing to radically live in the light...owning who I am so God can heal me!