

Action speaks louder than words

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." (Joh 3:1-21)

Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught.

And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know letters, having never studied?"

Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?"

The people answered and said, "You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?"
(Joh 7:14-20)

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet."

Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee?"

Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" So there was a division among the people because of Him.

Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?"

The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"

Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed."

Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them,

"Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?"

They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee?"

Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee." (Joh 7:37-52)

<1> Now when the evening had come,
<2> there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a
disciple of Jesus.
<3> This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the
body to be given to him.
<4> When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,
<5> and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock;
<6> and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.
<7> And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.
(Mat 27:57-61)

<1> Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day
before the Sabbath,
<2> Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the
kingdom of God,
<3> coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate
marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He
had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the
body to Joseph.
<4> Then he brought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen.
<5> And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock,
<6> and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.
<7> And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where He was laid.
(Mar 15:42-47)

<2> Now behold, there was a man named Joseph, a council member, a good and just man.
He had not consented to their decision and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the
Jews, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God.
<3> This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.
<4> Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen,
<5> and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before.
<1> That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near.
<7> And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed
the tomb and how His body was laid. (Luk 23:50-55)

<2> After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the
Jews,
<3> asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission.
<4> So he came and took the body of Jesus. And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by
night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then
they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom
of the Jews is to bury.
<5> Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new
tomb in which no one had yet been laid.
<1> So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was
nearby. (Joh 19:38-42)

It is interesting to note that none of the twelve disciples went to ask for the body of Jesus. Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, showed courage asking Pilate for the body of Jesus. He took down the body of Jesus, and together with Nicodemus a Pharisee, wrapped Him in linen with myrrh and aloes. They laid Him in his own new tomb where no body had yet been laid. Two representatives of the Jewish law and government, demonstrate their respect by giving the Son of God, the King of Righteousness, a honourable burial.

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