



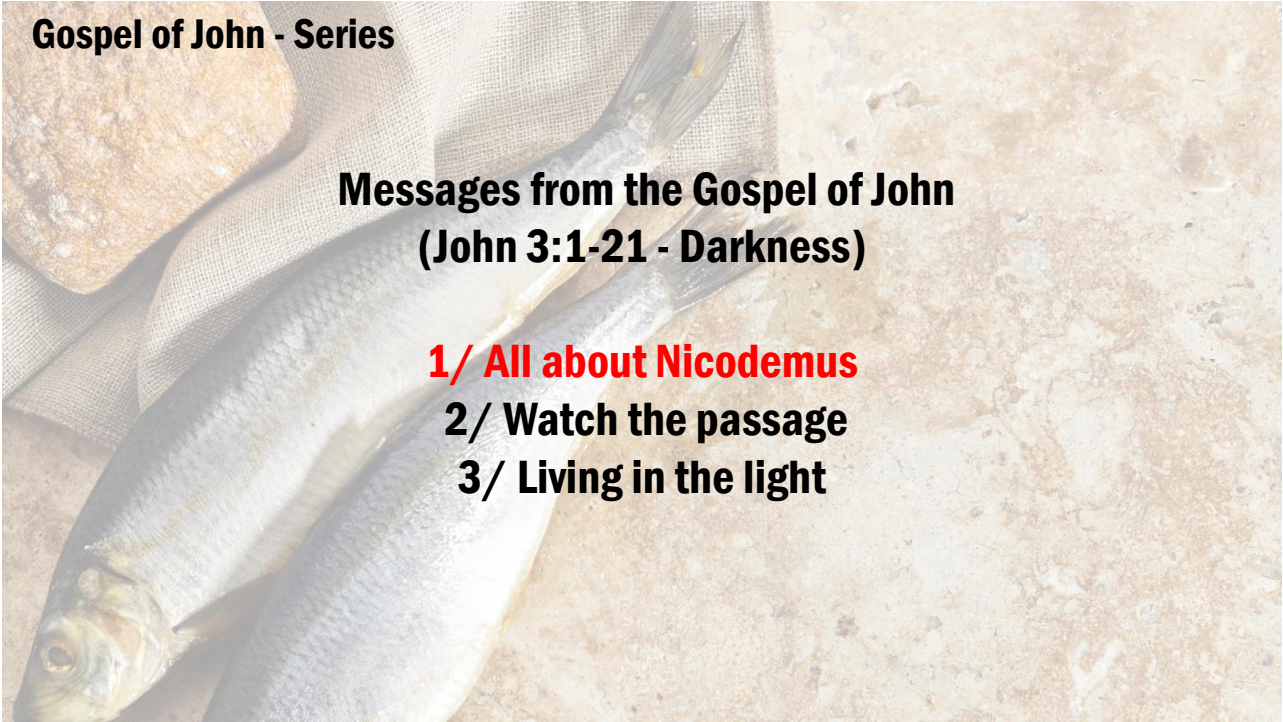
**Gospel of John - Series**

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(powerpoint slides)  
Series booklet  
Bible and sharing**

**Gospel of John - Series**

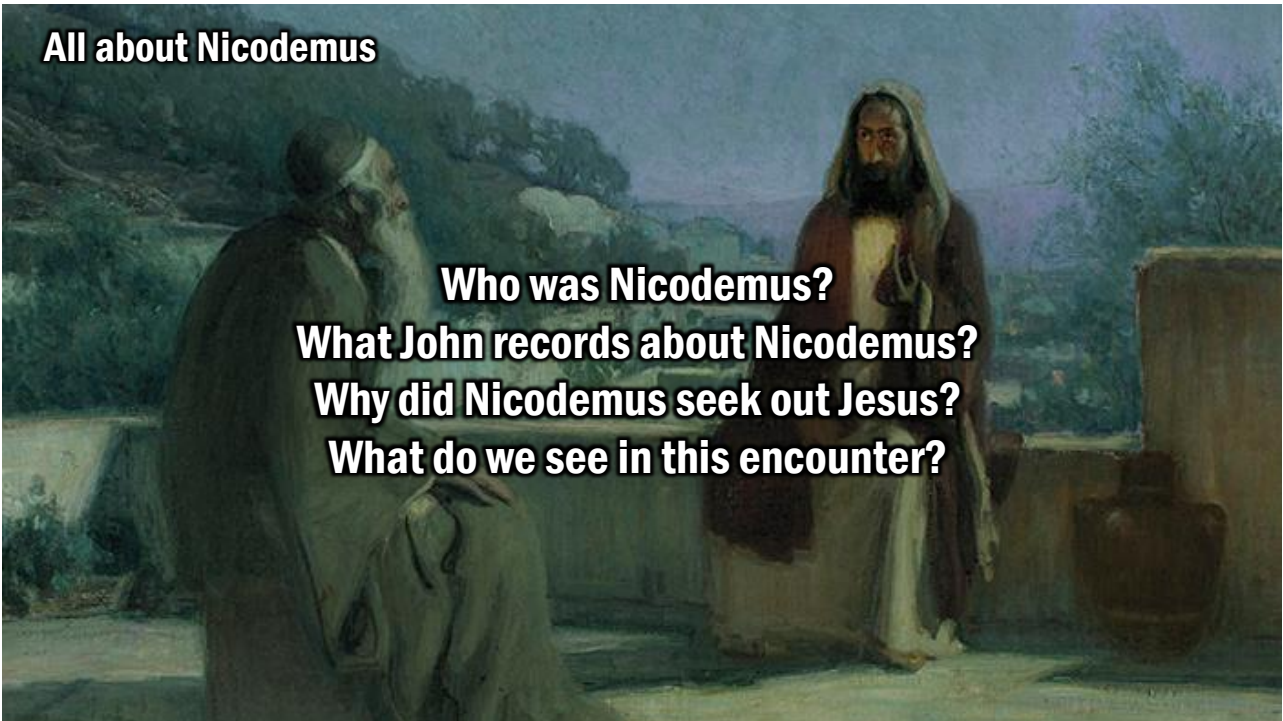
**Messages from the Gospel of John  
(John 3:1-21 - Darkness)**

- 1/ All about Nicodemus**
- 2/ Watch the passage**
- 3/ Living in the light**



**All about Nicodemus**

- Who was Nicodemus?**
- What John records about Nicodemus?**
- Why did Nicodemus seek out Jesus?**
- What do we see in this encounter?**



## **Who was Nicodemus?**

**(nike-rule/victory; demos-people)  
"a ruler of the Jews," John 3  
Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin**

**Highly educated, religious elite, descendant of Abraham**

**A person of means  
("30kg of spices", John 19)**

## **What John records about Nicodemus?**

**Three times mentioned in the Gospel  
3:1-10 – cautiously seeking  
7:37-52 – carefully tempering  
19:38-42 – customarily honouring**

**Darkness to light  
Private to public  
Query to devotion**

**(Limited reliable information)(believer or not?)**

## Why did Nicodemus seek out Jesus?

**Under Roman authority in the time of Christ, the Sanhedrin was the final court of appeals for matters regarding Jewish law and religion. The Sanhedrin had responsibility to find out about any teachers or other public figures who might lead the people astray!**

**“Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was”  
(John 1:19)**

## Why did Nicodemus seek out Jesus?

**To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The Jews then responded to him, “What **sign** can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?” (John 2:16-18)**

**Prophetic allusions? Attraction? Audacity?**

**“Rabbi, **we** know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the **signs** you are doing if God were not with him.” (John 3:2) **(John 2:23)****

## Why did Nicodemus seek out Jesus?

At night - Downtime? Genuine? Fear? Politics?

"a ruler of the Jews" - on the same level?

## What do we see in this encounter?

Jesus takes the **initiative** (heart of the matter):

1. will not turn anyone away
2. verifies His identity
3. questions affirm systemic unbelief
4. believing, to born of the Spirit
5. mosaic allusion to THE salvic action
6. John 3:16-18
7. BELIEVE....(participation)

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- 2/ Watch the passage**
- 3/ Living in the light**



## Gospel of John - Series

### Messages from the Gospel of John (John 3:1-21 - Darkness)

- 1/ All about Nicodemus
- 2/ Watch the passage
- 3/ **Living in the light**

Living in the truth, living in the light

This is the verdict:

**Light** has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of **light** because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the **light**, and will not come into the **light** for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

But whoever lives by the truth comes into the **light**, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. (John 3:19-21)

Living in the truth, living in the light

The two questions Nicodemus was asking:

- 1/The possibility of the new birth;
- 2/and the process of the new birth.

Born again, born anew, new birth – “to enter the kingdom”  
imperative: exclusive nature – ‘new’  
this ‘new’ divides eternal and condemned life

Living in the truth, living in the light

Flesh **gives birth** to flesh, but the Spirit **gives birth** to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be **born again.**’  
(John 3:6-7)

Genesis-esc feel about ‘**born again**’ – “**according to its kind**”  
New creation story, not a change of heart...a new heart



Living in the truth, living in the light

born of the spirit...a new heart  
**HOW?**

Jesus uses plural verbs four times implying that:  
we is “Jesus and the prophets” (Jn3:11)

Nicodemus should have known about this “regeneration”  
Ez 36:26-28(spirit); Ps 143:10-11 (spirit); Jer 31:33(spirit)

Living in the truth, living in the light

**13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”**  
(John 3:11-15)  
**(Numbers 21:4-9)**

**Christology**  
Jesus, Son of man...from heaven  
authority, identity, weightiness

The Greek **aiionios** with noun **zoe** implies that eternal life begins at the moment of faith and more than endless existence: it's sharing the Divine Life.  
(nb 2Pet1:4)

Living in the truth, living in the light

Then the people of Israel set out from Mount Hor, taking the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom. But the people **grew impatient** with the long journey, 5 and they began to **speak against God and Moses**. **“Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?” they complained. “There is nothing to eat here and nothing to drink. And we hate this horrible manna!”** (Numbers 21:4-9)

Living in the truth, living in the light

**growing...impatience, tiredness, will it ever end, trials, unknowns**  
**watch, beware, guard our confession/thoughts/heart**

Eph 4:29 (good)  
 Pr 18:21 (power)  
 Pr 4:23 (guard)  
 Luke 6:45 (good/evil)

Living in the truth, living in the light

So the Lord sent poisonous snakes among the people, and many were bitten and **died**. 7 Then the people came to Moses and cried out, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take away the snakes.”  
**So Moses prayed for the people. (Numbers 21:4-9)**

**Who is praying for us – even now?**  
 (nb Rom 8:34, Heb 7:25, 1John2:1)

Living in the truth, living in the light

Then the Lord told him, “**Make a replica of a poisonous snake and attach it to a pole. All who are bitten will live if they simply look at it!**” 9 So Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to a pole. Then anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the bronze snake and be healed! (Numbers 21:4-9)

Living in the truth, living in the light

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness  
(look at it and live)

so the Son of Man must be lifted up  
(believe in Him and live)

John 3:14-15

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. (John 3:18)

Living in the truth, living in the light

This is the verdict:

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Living in the truth, living in the light

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and **they realised they were naked**; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, **"I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."** 11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" (Genesis 3:7-11)

Living in the truth, living in the light

So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, **"Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he [son of man] will crush your head and you will strike his heel."**

(Genesis 3:14-15)

(Numbers 21)(John 3:16)(so loved..)

Living in the truth, living in the light

## John 3:16

**For God** (the greatest being) **so** (the greatest degree)  
**loved** (the greatest affection) **the world** (the greatest object of love)  
**that he gave** (the greatest act) **his only** (the greatest treasure)  
**begotten** (the greatest relationship) **Son** (the greatest gift),  
**that whosoever** (the greatest number)  
**believes** (the greatest trust) **in him** (the greatest object of faith)  
**should not perish** (the greatest deliverance)  
**but have everlasting** (the greatest assurance)  
**life** (the greatest blessing).

Living in the truth, living in the light

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. **But whoever lives by the truth** comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that **what they have done has been done in the sight of God.** (John 3:19-21)

Poion ten aletheian: **“lives by the truth.”**

Used only twice by John (Jn 3:21; 1 Jn 1:6).

lives by / belief is a “participation,” not just acknowledgement.



**Gospel of John - Series**

**Messages from the Gospel of John**

**‘our shame is taken away – we no longer need to live in darkness’**

**1/ come in the dark or light, with your questions**

**2/ look at the cross to live**

**3/ live in the truth, participate in the truth**

**4/ in the sight of God**

**“So we might believe...”**