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10-22-2025

RELIGIOUS BUT NO RELATIONSHIP

A very religious man named Nicodemus, who was a Pharisee, and a ruler of the Jews came to Jesus at night. I imagine he came at night because he didn't want any of his cohorts to know he was visiting him. After all, the majority of the Pharisees hated Jesus.

When he saw Jesus, he acknowledged that Jesus was a Rabbi that came from God because of the many miracles that he had done. He acknowledged that God must be with him.

Instead of being impressed by Nicodemus' flattery, Jesus said in John 3:3, ***"...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."***

Nicodemus was puzzled at this. His reaction was one of confusion and more questions. How can this happen? How can one go back into their mother's womb a second time.

Then, Jesus said in John 3:5, ***"...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water [natural birth] AND of the Spirit [spiritual birth], he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh [natural birth] is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit [spiritual birth] is spirit."***

Then he rebuked Nicodemus for being a religious leader that didn't understand spiritual things. Nicodemus had no clue about a second birth. He was just like many religious people who do not understand it.

One can be religious, meaning that they do good things, they go to church, they don't swear. They give money to the poor. They may follow all their church religious rules, yet, that is all for nothing if they are not born of the Spirit. They have no personal relationship with God.

Without repenting of one's sin and acknowledging that Jesus is the only way to the Father and receiving Jesus' blood as the payment for your sin debt, you can do all the right things and still end up separated from God in hell. Religious rules and regulations will not get you there. You must be born of the Spirit as Jesus said.

Have you ever been born again? Have you received Jesus as your personal Savior? Have you made the choice to give your life to him as a "living sacrifice?" If so, then you have eternal life with Jesus to look forward to.

If not, then it is time to receive His salvation. Say this prayer: "Father God, I know I am a sinner. I acknowledge that I need a Savior. I thank you for sending Jesus into the world to pay for my sin. I thank you Father, for allowing him to die on the cross and shed his blood for me. I thank you that his blood washes away my sin. I receive Him as my Savior now, in Jesus' name amen." If you have done this, you have gone from being religious to having a relationship.

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