

RUSSELL SANDERS
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NICODEMUS

In John 3:1-21 we see that a ruler of the temple, a Pharisee named Nicodemus, came to Jesus secretly under the cover of a dark night to talk to Jesus. What follows is Jesus' discussion of the born-again experience which is so crucial to our understanding.

This past week I saw a question from a Jewish source that raised a question. They questioned whether Nicodemus ever actually became a believer on Jesus, and if so, where is the proof?

I would have to answer "yes" he did to that question. My proof would come from John 19:38-42 relating to the burial of Jesus after he was crucified on the cross. Two men, both part of the Sanhedrin, buried Jesus.

Joseph of Arimathea, a counsellor, asked Pilate for Jesus' body, and received it. He had only three hours from Jesus' 3:00 p.m. death until sundown to take care of this matter. Passover began at sundown.

Due to the time limitation, he found a new and unused sepulcher at a nearby garden for the burial. Nicodemus came with him and brought a hundred-pound weight of myrrh [a burial spice] and aloe to anoint the body of Jesus. Together, the two men wrapped Jesus' body in linen and then laid him to rest.

This proves to me that both these men had become sincere followers and believers upon Jesus. They might have needed to follow Jesus in secret to avoid being stripped of their positions among the Sanhedrin, but we do not know that for sure. What we do know is that they believed on Jesus.

You and I, likewise, cannot truly judge a person's position relative to Christ. What we see or hear is more than likely incomplete. Only God truly knows what is in their heart and their position with Christ, being either in or out of God's kingdom.

Instead of trying to assess a person's relationship to Jesus, we should pray for them and believe the best for them. Your prayers given in faith are effective.

Nicodemus went from being first as a religious Pharisee, to second, seeking Jesus, and third, to being a sincere believer. It was a journey that was eternally worth taking.