



¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." ³In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." ⁴"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" ⁵Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit ...

(Selections, John 3:1-17)

⁹"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ... ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

(Selections, John 3:1-17)

What makes it difficult to face truth?

1. ... when people expect you to be "an expert" to know everything

...a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. (3:1)

Jesus said, "You, [Nicodemus,] are an important teacher in Israel ... (John 3:10a, NCV)

Courageous Truth ☞ Nicodemus

"[Jesus], we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." [3] In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." [4] "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" (John 3:2b-4)

Courageous Truth ☞ Nicodemus

2. ... when you have missed the heart of the matter
3. ... when you worry about personal reputation

[Nicodemus] came to Jesus at night ... (John 3:2)

Courageous Truth ☞ Nicodemus

*Jesus said, "You are an important teacher in Israel,
and you don't understand these things?"
(John 3:10, NCV)*

Courage for Truth requires:

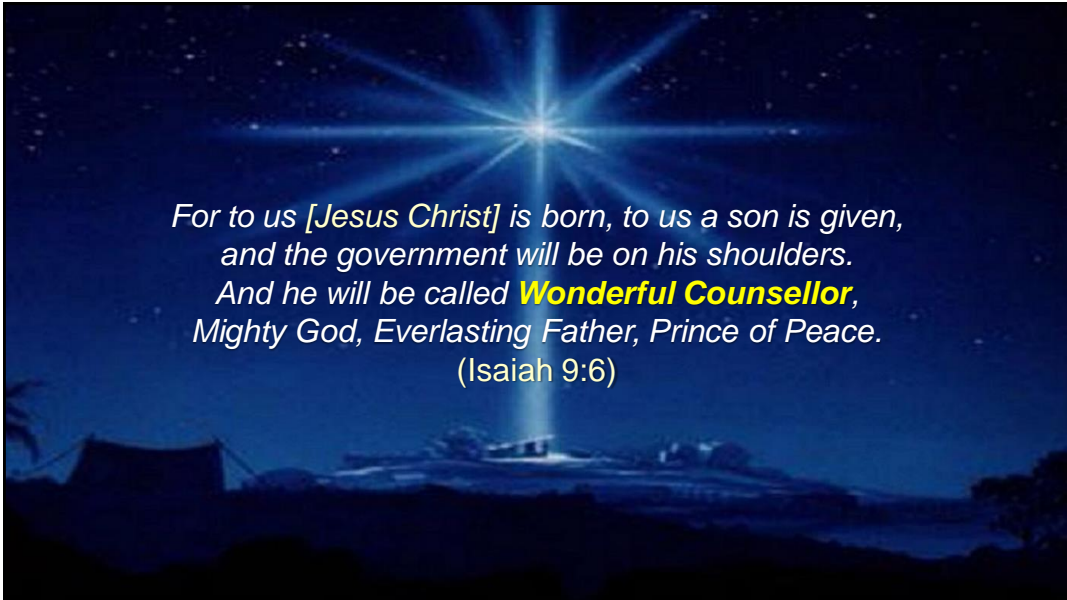
1. **Humility to learn**

[Nicodemus said,] “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.” (John 3:2b)

Courageous Truth ☞ Nicodemus

*Nicodemus answered and said to [Jesus],
“How can these things be?” (John 3:9)*





2. Desire for **personal experience**

⁴Nicodemus 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?”

⁵Jesus answered, “**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.**

⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh,
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

(John 3:4-6, ESV)

Courageous Truth ☞ Nicodemus

3. Encounter with something greater than yourself--in God

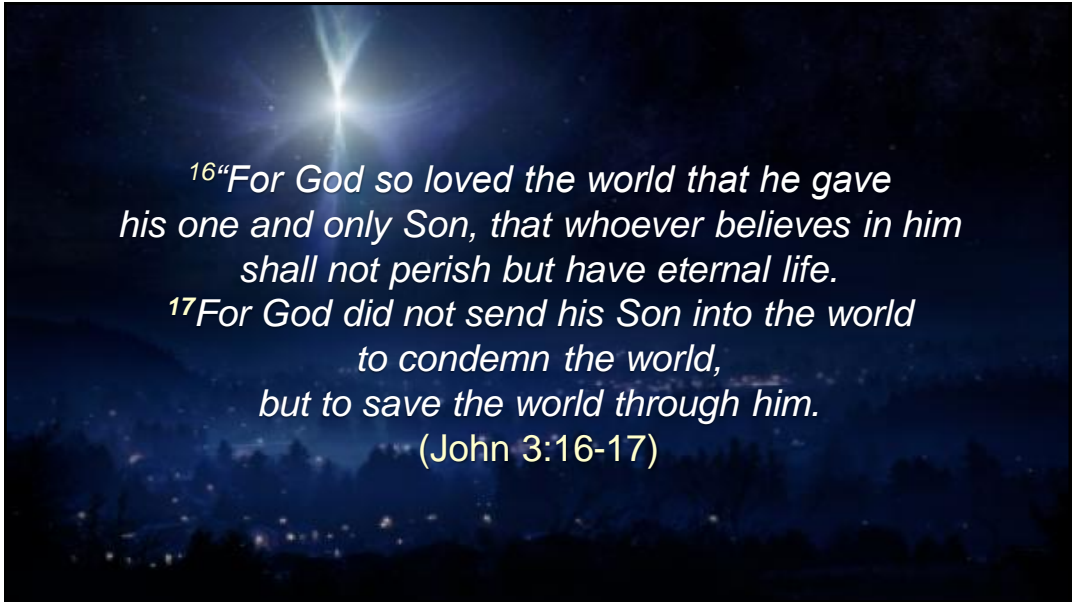
Courageous Truth ☞ Nicodemus





**“I find it quite improbable that
such order came out of chaos.
There has to be some organizing principle.
God to me is a mystery but is the explanation
for the miracle of existence,
why there is something instead of nothing.”**

- Allan Sandage (Astronomer with Carnegie Observatories,
Gold Medal Awardee of Royal Astronomical Society)



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³⁸Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked [Governor] Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹He was accompanied by **Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night ...**

⁴⁰Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it ...

⁴¹At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb ... they laid Jesus there.

(Selections, John 19:38-41)

