

Midnight Rendezvous

What is one question you would love to ask Jesus?

Read John 3:1-17.

1. What is the significance of Nicodemus calling Jesus *Rabbi*?
 - a. It means teacher in Hebrew.
 - b. It shows that Nicodemus recognized Jesus as a knowledgeable figure with authority.
 - c. It was a name Nicodemus was used to being called.
 - d. It was a degrading name for Jesus; a slur, so to speak.
 - e. It meant Nicodemus submitted to Jesus' authority as the son of God.
 - f. It was said in a sarcastic or mocking manner.
 - g. It was a sign of respect toward Jesus.
 - h. It did not necessarily mean he was fully convinced by Jesus' authority.
 - i. Other.

2. What confused Nicodemus about Jesus' first statement to him (verse 3)?
 - a. The literal versus symbolic meaning of rebirth.
 - b. He knew the right answer but did not want to say it.
 - c. Nicodemus was playing with Jesus.
 - d. He was too proud to see the obvious symbolic meaning.
 - e. Nicodemus was being sarcastic.
 - f. He was too proud to accept that he needed to be reborn.
 - g. He was confused about the concept of baptism.
 - h. Nicodemus genuinely had no clue about what Jesus was talking about.
 - i. Other.

3. In Jesus' response to Nicodemus' query, what was he referring to? What is the true meaning of rebirth?
 - a. Baptism.
 - b. A public declaration of your love for God.
 - c. The willful submission to God's commands.
 - d. The difference between human birth and spiritual birth.
 - e. An allusion to wind.
 - f. The requirements to enter the kingdom of Heaven.
 - g. It is impossible to explain.
 - h. An explanation of who "The Spirit" is.
 - i. Other.

4. What was significant about Jesus' reply to Nicodemus' doubt (verses 10-15)?
 - a. He questioned the knowledge of the Jewish priests.
 - b. It was a way to help Nicodemus rid himself of his pride.
 - c. It was a way to assert his intellectual authority over Nicodemus.
 - d. He was making fun of Nicodemus.
 - e. It was a way to help Nicodemus reflect on his true reasons for doubting.
 - f. It was a way to give Nicodemus hope.
 - g. He was encouraging Nicodemus to have faith.
 - h. It was a way to let Nicodemus know that He was the Messiah.
 - i. Other.

5. Verses 16-17 are very well known, but what is the importance of these verses?
 - a. It is a promise from God specifically for Nicodemus.
 - b. It is a promise from God for all of us.
 - c. It is a sign of how much God loves us.
 - d. It is meant to instill fear in us.
 - e. It was a way to teach Nicodemus of God's love.
 - f. It is hope for the future.
 - g. It is an explanation of God's intentions for His people.
 - h. It is a way to force us to submit to God's plan.
 - i. Other.

6. The last part of Jesus' monologue tells us (and Nicodemus):
 - a. That we should not be judging others.
 - b. That only God is entitled to sit in judgement on people.
 - c. The points on which Jesus executes judgement.
 - d. What exactly people who are reborn experience by following Christ.
 - e. That we are entitled to judge those around us if we think we are holy.
 - f. That what the Pharisees were doing was wrong.
 - g. That Nicodemus needed to change his prideful ways to truly be a light to others.
 - h. The differences between being in light and being in darkness.
 - i. Other.

7. Nicodemus was proud of his knowledge; a trait that Pharisees all possessed. Do you find yourself acting prideful? What can you do about it?

8. What do you take away from Jesus' words to Nicodemus? How do they apply to your personal walk with Christ?