Seeking The Truth

John records the interaction between Jesus and an inquisitive man named Nicodemus (John 3:1-21). Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews and appears to be somewhat of what one may consider a religious individual. However, his religious nature does not appear to play a role in John's narrative, as religion does not seem to be the quest of Nicodemus. Since Nicodemus already has "religion" in his corner (at least in his mind he has religion), he comes across as one who is seeking the truth from the One he knows can provide it - Jesus. Nicodemus recognizes that Jesus is obviously come from God as he states, "For not one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him" (John 3:2).

Jesus initially responds to Nicodemus with a statement that throws the mind of Nicodemus into a bit of bewilderment (John 3:3-4). Remember, Nicodemus is a religious man, seemingly faithful to the Law, making him an upright son of Abraham. In other words, Nicodemus had concluded that being religious was good enough and was attempting to understand the truth as Jesus presented it in an intellectual way. Nicodemus was thinking physical about spiritual matters.

Nicodemus is blessed in that Jesus assures that he understood the truth about spiritual rebirth. Some then and some today are not so fortunate, and certainly, Nicodemus's sincere heart played a role in this situation. Jesus states in Matthew 13:13-15, "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see

with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them."

Jesus rebukes Nicodemus because he should have known and understood the things of which Jesus spoke (John 3:10). Now we see why Nicodemus was indeed blessed. Even though Jesus rebukes Nicodemus' doubt, He teaches him the truth regarding the incarnation, the atonement, and faith in the Savior.

We Christians today need to have an inquisitive nature about our Savior and His word. We need to be inquiring of His word that we might have a greater understanding of Him and what He requires from us. Paul declares, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of Truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). The Hebrew writer furthers with, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). The way we get through life and the way we understand so that we are not bewildered by all the religious confusing around us in the world is by rightly dividing God's word of Truth.

Thanks be to God for His ability to show us where we stand (like Nicodemus) and for providing us the grace we need to correct ourselves according to His will (Romans 3:23, Hebrews 4:16, James 1:21-25).