



There are characters in the Gospel who shine because of their evident holiness... and others who move us precisely because of their weakness. Nicodemus belongs to this second group. He is not an apostle, not a martyr, not a saint known for great heroic acts... at least, not at the beginning.

He is, rather, a divided man.

A man who seeks the truth... but fears the consequences of finding it.

And for that very reason, his story is not ancient. It is deeply current. It is the story of millions of people today.

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## Who Was Nicodemus? An Important Man... and Yet Empty

Nicodemus appears in the Gospel of John as:

- A Pharisee
- A member of the Sanhedrin (the religious elite of Israel)
- A teacher of the Law

In other words, he was not ignorant nor superficial. He was educated, religious, respected. He had prestige, knowledge, and position.

But something was missing.

He lacked what is essential: **a life inwardly transformed by God.**

Here lies the first great lesson:

| *You can know a lot about God... and not know God.*



## The Night of Nicodemus: When the Soul Seeks in Secret

The key moment in his story is when he decides to visit Jesus Christ.

But there is a detail that is not accidental:

**He goes at night.**

*“Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus... He came to Jesus at night...” (John 3:1-2)*

Why at night?

- Fear of what others might say
- Fear of losing his status
- Inner insecurity
- A reluctance to expose himself

Nicodemus believes... but not enough to take a public step.

And this is where his story directly challenges us:

□ How many times do you also “go at night” to God?

- When you pray in private, but do not dare to live your faith publicly
- When you know what is right, but fear looking bad
- When you sense the truth... but do not want it to change your life

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## “You Must Be Born Again”: The Phrase That Disorients Nicodemus

In that encounter, Jesus says something that shatters all his frameworks:



“Unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.”  
(John 3:3)

Nicodemus, a rational and educated man, does not understand.

He responds almost with irony:

“How can a man be born when he is old?”

Here lies the clash:

- Nicodemus represents religion understood as rules, tradition, structure
- Christ brings a new, radical, interior life

It is not about “behaving well.”

It is about **being reborn from within**.

About allowing God to transform you from the deepest place.

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## The Drama of Nicodemus: Believing... But Not Fully

Nicodemus does not reject Jesus.

But neither does he fully surrender.

He remains in an intermediate state—uncomfortable, unstable.

And this is one of the most dangerous spiritual states:

☐ Not being far from God... but not truly being with Him either.

It is lukewarmness.



It is faith without consequences.

It is Christianity without the Cross.

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## A Ray of Light: Nicodemus Begins to Change

Nicodemus appears again later in the Gospel.

When the Pharisees want to condemn Jesus, he dares to say:

“Does our Law judge a man without first hearing him?” (John 7:51)

It is not an open defense.

But he is no longer completely silent.

Something is changing.

Grace is at work.

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## The Decisive Moment: When There Is No Turning Back

Finally, Nicodemus appears at the most difficult moment:

The death of Christ.

After the crucifixion, together with Joseph of Arimathea, he does something unthinkable:

□ He publicly exposes himself to give Jesus a proper burial.

“Nicodemus... brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes... and they



| *took the body of Jesus...” (John 19:39-40)*

Here there is no more night.

Here there is no more hidden fear.

Here is a man who, late—but truly—has made his decision.

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## The Theological Teaching: The Soul’s Journey Toward the Light

The figure of Nicodemus is profoundly rich from a theological perspective:

### 1. Grace Works Slowly

God does not always transform in an instant.

Sometimes, He works in the heart gradually.

Nicodemus does not move from doubt to holiness in a single day.

But he advances.

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### 2. Faith Involves Risk

To truly believe implies losing something:

- Reputation
- Comfort
- Security

Nicodemus knew this. That is why he hesitated.

But in the end, he understood that **to lose for Christ is to gain eternally.**



### 3. Knowing the Truth Is Not Enough

Nicodemus knew a lot.

But he had to learn that:

□ Salvation does not come from knowledge... but from conversion.

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## Nicodemus Today: The Silent Christian of the 21st Century

Nicodemus is not just a Gospel character.

He is a very current spiritual profile.

Today there are many “Nicodemuses”:

- They believe, but do not say it
- They practice, but with embarrassment
- They sense the truth, but do not commit

In a world where faith is questioned, ridiculed, or ignored, the fear of exposure is real.

But the Gospel leaves no room for half-measures.

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## Practical Guide: How to Stop Being a “Nighttime Nicodemus”

This is where his story becomes a spiritual path:



## 1. Take a Visible Step in Your Faith

You do not need to start with great gestures.

But you do need something concrete:

- Making the sign of the cross in public
  - Defending a truth with charity
  - Not hiding your values
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## 2. Accept the Cost of Believing

Being a Christian is not comfortable.

It never was.

But it is worth it.

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## 3. Seek Real Encounters with Christ

Nicodemus had a personal encounter with Jesus.

You need one too:

- In prayer
  - In the sacraments
  - In silence
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## 4. Do Not Delay Your Conversion

Nicodemus arrived... but late.

Do not wait for extreme moments.



Start today.

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## Conclusion: From Night to Light

The story of Nicodemus is a story of hope.

Because it shows that:

- Even a weak faith can grow
- Even a divided heart can decide
- Even fear can be transformed into courage

But it is also a warning:

☐ Do not remain in the night.

Christ did not come so that you would seek Him in secret.

He came so that you would live in the light.

“The light has come into the world... but people loved darkness rather than light...” (John 3:19)

The question is direct, uncomfortable, unavoidable:

**Will you remain a Nicodemus of the night... or one who finally steps into the light?**