

# CONVERSATIONS

## Jesus converts a clergy! (John 3)

- Monday Do our lives cause others to pause? Here are two quotes from Sunday's message:
- "I did grow up in a church, but now I am a Buddhist. When I became a mother, I wanted my daughter to have a spiritual upbringing. However, I didn't want her to become like the Christians in the church I knew. They were always so negative and complaining about everything, and I wanted my daughter to be in a positive environment. I became a Buddhist since they are much more loving and peaceful people than those in the church (Kimball 2007, 96).
- A coffee shop worker put it this way: "I hate working on Sundays . . . because that's when the Christians come in." (Kimball 2007, 97)
- Would our lives cause unbelievers to be curious enough to want to have an extended nighttime conversation with us about why we live the way we live?
- Tuesday Read John 3 again. We talked about how Nicodemus came to Christ at night and how John uses the word darkness and light with symbolic overtones. John maybe trying to tell us something about Nicodemus that not even Nicodemus was ready to admit—namely, his lostness. As you are interacting with your colleagues and neighbors and family members, be aware and pay attention to whatever clues they may be displaying that reveal openness to spiritual discussions. They may come to you with a problem or a situation that's overwhelming them (like our country's financial turbulence); it's an opportunity for you to step up and offer to pray for them. Something as genuine as: "I'll be keeping you in my prayers," can speak volumes to those in darkness. Pray for your friends today.
- Wednesday I counted three word pictures that Jesus used in explaining the gospel: (1) "You must be born from above" is the remedy to a problem. If the problem is that I'm spiritually dead; the solution is new *birth*. (2) The Holy Spirit is a mysterious, divine, and untamed person; like the *wind*, we cannot tell from He is coming from or where He is going. But we can see His effects! (3) The *bronze snake* of Numbers 21:6-9 was a powerful picture from Nicodemus' heritage which gave him a hook upon which he could hang the Gospel! The lesson: when you share your faith, think in pictures! There's a reason why Jesus told parables! If you could write a parable of the Gospel, how would it sound?
- Thursday Your picture of the Gospel needs to include Gospel ideas like: (1) an irreparably broken problem; (2) selfless love that takes action; (3) one person giving his life for another (substitution); (4) the victim being rescued by solely depending on the rescuer. In other words, not any old picture will do. Gospel pictures are about sacrifice, selflessness, and substitution—God stepping in to do what no human could ever do!
- Friday Read John 7:50-51 & John 19:38-42. Give God time. Remember that Nicodemus most likely wasn't converted the night he met with Jesus. His was a gradual turning to faith. Be consistent. Be patient. Keep praying. And let Jesus do His work. **Tonight, come to the *Conversations Seminar!* Friday 7-9 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**