

Welcome to Bible Study 5 March 2023

Opening Prayer (please pray together)

God of all creation, we are needing some comfort right now for our hearts are breaking. Recently in our congregation, we have lost loved ones. Our words feel like they have no strength, but I know through you my Lord, that you are our comforter. Sorrow has become a friend, a companion - ever present. Our prayer to you is that you will help grief do its work in us, and when it is done we pray that the wound of loss is healed. Please God, help us heal, Amen.

**Q 1 I've always been fascinated by the unknown.
Does the unknown scare you or excite you?**

Worship

Choose a few of your favourite hymns.

Word; Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains — where does my help come from?

² My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot slip — he who watches over you will not slumber;

⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The LORD watches over you — the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm — he will watch over your life;

⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Word; John 3.1-17

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

³ Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

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. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Q 2 They say we are creatures of habit.

Why is it so difficult to break old habits or beliefs?

Q 3 Nicodemus was clearly impressed with Jesus but so intimidated by his fellow Pharisees that he could only see Jesus under the cover of night. Why couldn’t this educated teacher understand the teachings of Jesus. Please discuss.

Q 4 Jesus challenges all of us to be courageous enough to bring our curiosity about Jesus into the open. Do you agree?

Works

Try something new this week. Phone a friend, visit someone. Let your light shine!

Ending Prayer

Lord, when I am uncertain about what I should do, show me your ways. When I don’t know which way to turn, teach me and show me. In everything I do, I ask you to guide me. I trust you and I ask that you would protect me. God, open my eyes to see you. God, open my ears that I could hear you as I cry, when I am hungry, when I am scared and when I feel beaten. God, open my heart to you and to others, to receive help and support and love. Give me strength to endure. I pray in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

Shalom Rev Darren King (Ref Roots on the web, The Message)