

INTRO

- What's something you've been curious about lately? Maybe a new hobby, topic, or even a random internet search?

The Cross is our Lenten series about encounters with Jesus and the cross.

READ

John 3:1-15

REFLECT

Curiosity is a good thing and fuels learning and exploration. Nicodemus is a man whose curiosity leads him to Jesus, but curiosity has limits.

Reputation Limits Curiosity

Nicodemus came to Jesus at night, likely out of fear of what others would think.

Qu: where in your life do you hesitate to express your faith because of what others might think?

Preconceptions Limit Curiosity

Nicodemus respected Jesus as a Teacher but struggled with his teaching on being “born again.”

Qu: have you ever had a moment where God challenged your assumptions about Him? How did you respond?

Human Nature Limits Curiosity

In vv14-15, Jesus references the bronze serpent in Numbers 21 as a picture of salvation. Jesus' challenge to Nicodemus, and to us, is that no matter what we've relied on to “save” us—ethnicity, heritage, education—it's not sufficient.

Our human condition requires us, much like those bitten by the deadly snakes in Num 21, to look to something beyond ourselves for help.

From Curiosity to Transformation

After starting out curious yet cautious and confused, Nicodemus eventually reaches a point of courageously and openly aligning himself with Jesus, bringing 75 lb of burial spices for Him (see John 19:38-40).

CS Lewis said,

Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.

Qu: Are there areas where you feel safe following Jesus from a distance but hesitate to commit to Him fully?

Qu: what's a step of boldness you can or need to take in your faith right now?

PRAY

- Pray for courage to move beyond curiosity to courageous commitment.
- Ask God to reveal areas where reputation, preconceptions, or fear hold you back in following Jesus.
- Pray for family or friends who are curious about Jesus but have yet decided to follow Him.