

## FUSE 7<sup>th</sup> Feb

### Searching for Truth John 3 verses 1-21

I once had the pleasure of chatting to a guy who had been brought up in a religious family and he had gone to church regularly. He had read the Bible said prayers at various times and generally kept his life in line with what was asked of him.

I got talking to him about my own experience and a bit of Vicky's. I described to him how a real spiritual life is found in a relationship not in following religious activity and laws.

He already knew a little about Jesus as a lot of people do. I just reminded him of what it was Jesus did for him by dying on the cross. As he opened his heart to the idea of believing in Jesus and to commit to following him, he experienced what we call a rebirth in a spiritual sense.

That decision set him on a new path – his new life was not and isn't a perfect one but even in the ups and down, highs and lows of his life he finds a deep satisfaction in his personal relationship with Jesus.

#### Question

What religious activities have you or people you know tried throughout your life?

What has brought you satisfaction?

#### Personal question

Where do you find most satisfaction in your relationship with Jesus or your religious activity? Why?

A very religious man came to see Jesus one night. He had been to the best schools and held a high position of leadership in the Jewish community. Now there was a problem he had emptiness in his life. So he came seeking information.

But Jesus offered him transformation.

On a scale of 1 to 10 from totally confused about Jesus being 1 to totally committed to Jesus being 10, where would you place Nicodemus at the beginning of this conversation.

On the same scale, where do you think Nicodemus is when he goes away?

Why does Nicodemus go to Jesus at night?

Why does he go at all?

Can you relate to Nicodemus's approach to Jesus?

How is the concept of birth that Jesus is trying to explain different from what Nicodemus is thinking of (verse 3-4)?

Based on what Jesus says in verse 5-8, how would you define the phrase "born again" (verse 7) to someone who had never heard it or who had a misconception about it?

What is your impression of God as you read verses 16 – 18?

According to verses 19-21 why doesn't everyone believe in Jesus and receive eternal life?

How do you feel as you read these verses?

Nicodemus's encounter with Jesus emphasizes our personal response and commitment to Jesus. How would you describe your own relationship with Jesus?

Jesus longs for a relationship with us, he looks on us as his best friend the question is how close are we to calling him our best friend?