



**Part 4:
The Agenda of Life**

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An Honest Man with an Honest Agenda

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." – *John 3:1-2*

The Agenda of Jesus:

The Standard

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." – *John 3:3*

The Sacrifice

"No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." – *John 3:13-14*

The Salvation

"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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." – *John 3:16-17*

The Separation

"Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed." – *John 3:18-20*

The Source

"But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." – *John 3:21*

The Sorrow

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs." – *John 19:38-40*

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The SOLUTION

Luke 24:1-8

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words.

A Simple Prayer:

Jesus, I know that I have sinned. I know that I need mercy and grace. I humbly ask you to forgive my sins and heal my heart. I trust you and accept you as the Lord and Savior of my life. I confess with my mouth and believe in my heart that you died for me and that you rose from the dead so that I could be free. I give you my life. Amen.

On Your Way Home:

What are your toughest questions about God? Where can you find answers?

Group Life Discussion Questions



- 1) If you could have a conversation with a famous person, who would you want to talk to and why? What would some of your questions be?
- 2) Nicodemus is a great picture of what happens when someone is faced with social pressure. In front of whom are you most afraid of to speak for Christ? Why?
- 3) Has your life been transformed by Jesus? If you are a believer, take a few moments and share how you came to know Christ (give the Reader's Digest condensed version)!
- 4) What do you think Nicodemus did when he heard that Jesus was alive?
- 5) How did you celebrate the Resurrection last week?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?
- 7) Read the progression of scripture from John 3 out loud to wrap up your group time. He is risen!