

EASTER
Pt. 1 – “Nick & Joe Save Easter”
Pastor Vernie Fletcher
April 8th, 2012

We meet Nick [Nicodemus] early in Jesus’ ministry

John 3:1-15 (NIV)

^[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."

^[3] In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

^[4] "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

^[5] Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is 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.'"

^[9] "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

^[10] "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these 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 desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,

^[15] that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

Many months later Nicodemus surfaces again:

John 7:45-53 (NIV)

^[45] Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him in?"

^[46] "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards declared.

^[47] "You mean he has deceived you also?" the Pharisees retorted.

^[48] "Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him?"

^[49] No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law--there is a curse on them."

[50] Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked,

[51] "Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?"

[52] They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee."

[53] Then each went to his own home.

Jesus forgives an adulterous woman

John 8:1-3 (NIV)

[1] But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

[2] At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.

[3] The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group.

Jesus heals the man who was born blind

John 9:13-16 (NIV)

[13] They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind.

[14] Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath.

[15] Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

[16] Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided.

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

John 11:47-48 (NIV)

[47] Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many miraculous signs.

[48] If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."

Jesus is Betrayed and Arrested

Jesus Stands Trial before Pilate

Nick and Joe saw something the others missed

John 3:13-15 (NIV)

^[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 desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,

^[15] that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

Isaiah 53:5-6 (NIV)

^[5] But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

^[6] We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

There was no going back now**John 19:38 (NIV)**

^[38] 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.

Mark 15:43-45 (NIV)

^[43] Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

^[44] Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died.

^[45] When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph.

John 19:39-41 (NIV)

^[39] 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.

^[40] Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.

^[41] At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid.

Eternal life isn't a reward for good people**It's God's gift to forgiven people**