



**Courageous Conversation About Change
(You can't just talk all of your life)**

May 6, 2018 (Video Tag Team)

Big Question: What change can you make that would change your life?

Side Question: What change could have been made in your family's life that would have changed everything?

Note: Imagine With Me: If daddy never drank, no drugs in our lives, no abuse, no debt, no love issues, a good marriage and home life.

I. How Change Starts In The Real World

(It starts with research; *cp.* Matthew 7:7)

John 3:1–2 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” (NKJV)

Question: Who Was Nicodemus? He was the man who researched Jesus

1. Nicodemus was a Jewish Pharisee leader that came to Jesus privately at night
2. Nicodemus was a defender of Jesus (John 7:50-53) “Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?”
3. He was a friend of Joseph of Arimathea, the man who buried Jesus (John 19:38-42)

Question: Who Was a Good Friend of Nicodemus? (Joseph of Arimathea)

- Joseph of Arimathea was the only recorded friend who worked with Nicodemus in Scripture
- Joseph of Arimathea was considered a believer (Matthew 27:57)
- Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus (Matthew 27:58)
- Joseph of Arimathea did not agree with the council's decision regarding Jesus (Luke 23:51)
- Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus buried Jesus (John 19:38-42).

Summary:

- **John 3:1**” Nicodemus represented the best in the nation. He was a teacher (v. 10), a Pharisee, and a **member of the Sanhedrin**, the Jewish ruling council. **The Sanhedrin had 70 members who were responsible for religious decisions and also, under the Romans, for civil rule.....**The Sanhedrin put Jesus on trial, Luke 22:66”... (The Bible Knowledge Commentary)

II. How Change Works In The Real World

(It requires you to start over again)

1. Change requires you to start like a newborn baby (John 3:3)

- 3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot **see the kingdom of God.**”

2. Change requires you to ask new questions

- 4 Nicodemus said to Him, “**How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?**”

3. Change requires a public and spiritual change (The water is public; The spiritual is private)

- 5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of **water** and the **Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 **That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

4. Change requires seasons of confusion (He could not understand how he could change)

- 9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “**How can these things be?**” 10 Jesus answered and said to him, “**Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?**”

Change The Guard: Tag

III. Who Changes In The Real World

Answer: Those who believe (**John 3:15-16**)

- **3:15** that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever** believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Question: Do you believe enough to change?

IV. Five Things That Helped Me Change (Beverly Davis)

1. My Beliefs (I believed that God had the answer that I needed)
2. My Results (I was tired of getting the same results)
3. My Attitude (I grew in my love for God)
4. My Growth (I became more open minded -I became willing to wait)
5. My Passion (I made a clear, intentional decision)

Note: Our lesson said change is like becoming a newborn

- A newborn accepts and learns new concepts - I had to learn new ways of thinking
- A new born puts into practice what it is taught – I had to immerse myself in the Word to learn new principles for life
- A newborn takes milk first and then solids – I had to put my new life together, line upon line and precept upon precept

Next Time: How to Make More Courageous Changes