



Jesus and Nicodemus

John 3:1-5, 16

Sir Praisealot galloped to the castle gates and dismounted from his horse, Shadow. He had searched all morning and could not locate his squire, Gus. Gus was supposed to have met him to talk about another Bible Story, but he was nowhere to be found. A few minutes later, Sir Praisealot spotted Rufus, the Messenger Dragon. "Rufus, have you seen my squire?"

Rufus barked several times.

"What's that? He's in disguise? But why?" Sir Praisealot wondered aloud.

Rufus shrugged and barked again.

"He's afraid? Afraid of the Bible? But Gus has given his heart to Jesus. Why would he be afraid of the Good News?"

"I'm not afraid of the Bible. I'm afraid to ask Bible questions," came the voice of Gus from behind Rufus. "I am worried about what God thinks of me."

"Don't be silly, Gus! Come out here at once!" commanded Sir Praisealot.

"All right, coming." Gus slowly came out from behind Rufus revealing a large red wig on his head and a frog mask covering his face. "Gus, why are you wearing that silly get-up?"

"I don't want God to recognize me," he answered. "I have been asking a lot of questions about the Bible lately and I don't want God to think I don't like Him."

"Nonsense!" Sir Praisealot dismissed with a wave of his hand. "God knows you love Him. Besides there's nothing wrong with asking questions! That's how we learn and grow. I ask lots of questions!"

"You do?" Gus.

"Of course I do! You know Gus, you remind me of Nicodemus."

"Who is this Nickelodeon?" asked Gus.

"Not Nickelodeon, Nicodemus! He's in the Bible. Here, I'll show you if you take off that silly disguise!" Gus took off the mask and wig as Sir Praisealot quickly found the Bible verses in John 3. "Ah! Here we are! There was a Jewish leader named Nicodemus who came to see Jesus at night."

"Why did he come at night time?"

"He was a very wise religious man, but he had questions for Jesus." Sir Praisealot replied. "Perhaps he didn't want others to see that he didn't know all the answers already."

Gus nodded. "I know exactly how that feels!"

Sir Praisealot continued to explain. "He wanted to believe in Jesus because He knew that Jesus must have been sent from God or else He would not have been able to do so many wonderful miracles."

Gus nodded that he understood. "What did Jesus say to Nostradamus?"

"Nicodemus!" Sir Praisealot corrected him and began to read from the Bible. "In reply, Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.'"

Gus burst out laughing. "Ha, ha, ha! Oh, Sir Praisealot! A person cannot be born again! What is he supposed to do put on a diaper and drink out of a bottle?"

Sir Praisealot smiled. "Do you know that Nicodemus asked that same question?"

Gus stopped laughing and stared. "He did? Well, how did Jesus answer?"

"Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.'"

"Well, I want to enter heaven!" Gus declared. "But I don't have any spirit! I must get some water!" He bent down to collect water from a nearby stream.

"No, no Gus! That's not what Jesus meant!"

"Well, what does it mean to be born of water and Spirit?"

"Have a seat and I shall try and explain." Sir Praisealot said as he took a seat on a stone wall. Gus sat down beside him. "You see, when you were a little baby you were born of flesh. You came out of your mommy's belly."

Gus grinned. "Oh yes! She was so happy to have her little baby Goofus!"

"I'm sure she was. But you see, Gus, you had no choice whether you were going to be born or not."

"Well, of course not! What was I going to do? Hide in mama's belly?"

"Exactly! But you see, now you are older and you can make your own choices."

"Yes," Gus jumped up, "and I choose to follow Jesus!"

"Exactly," Sir Praisealot agreed. "And when you chose to follow Jesus it was like your life had started all over again!"

Gus thought for a moment. "That is true! Since I began following Jesus, everything is brand new. I see everything in a new way!"

"Right!" Sir Praisealot exclaimed, "Because now you see things in a new way with the help of the Holy Spirit!"

Gus smiled as he began to understand. "Oh, so it is like I am a brand new, spiritual baby. I am born again when it comes to the things of God!"

"Yes!" Shouted Sir Praisealot, "And that is why you have so many questions—because you have been born again. And babies need to learn everything!"

"I am a spiritual baby!" Gus cried. "Maybe I should get some spiritual diapers!"

Sir Praisealot gave him a funny look. "I don't think you'd look good in a diaper."

"I have very nice legs."

Sir Praisealot rolled his eyes. "I think you look more regal in your armor. Anyway, remember that serving the King is the noblest thing!" Sir Praisealot stood up and picked up his sword. "And now, come my student, grab your sword, it is time for fencing practice."

"Coming, sir!" Gus shouted as he clumsily gathered his sword and helmet. "Do you think we can talk more about spiritual things?"

"Why of course," Sir Praisealot shouted over his shoulder, "one can never learn too much about the things of God!"