The Story: Chapter Twenty-Three

Jesus’ Ministry Begins

***25****Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.* (John 21:25)

***30****Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;****31****but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*  (John 20:30-31)

**A Pharisee: Nicodemus** (*The Story* p. 326 - 327)

* A man who did everything **right** but was still **dead**.
	+ He was a **Jewish** man.
	+ He was **circumcised**  at 8 days old.
	+ He participated in Mishnah (education for young Jewish boys)
		- Age 5: fit to learn the **Scripture.**
		- Age 10: Torah with **interpretations**.
		- Age 13: Responsible for fulfilling the **commandments**.
		- Age 15: The Talmud and making rabbinic **interpretations**.
		- Age 20: Pursue a **career**.
		- Age 30: Authority to **teach** (a Rabbi)
	+ He faithfully attended **The Temple** and **synagogue**.
	+ He held important **positions** (ruling council and Israel’s teacher)
	+ He knew how to **dress** and **act** the part.
	+ His primary question for Jesus, “**How**…?”
* He needed to be **born again**.

*“…though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law,[*[*c*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=philippians+3&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29411c)*] blameless. 7But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”*  (Philippians 3:4-7)

**A Samaritan: Woman at the well** (*The Story* p. 327 - 329)

* A woman who did everything **wrong** but could still **live**.
	+ She was a **Samaritan** woman.
	+ She was not **joined** to a circumcised man.
	+ She was **uneducated**.
	+ She had never been to **The Temple** or a **synagogue.**
	+ She had never held an important **position**, she was **insignificant**.
	+ She did not **fit in** (she went to the well in the heat of the day)
	+ Her primary question for Jesus, “**What**…?”
* She needed to **believe** and **receive.**

**A Savior: Jesus Christ**

* Jesus answers their questions by telling them **who** He is.
	+ He is the **Son of God**.
	+ He is the **Messiah**.
* Jesus is **compassionate**.
	+ He met with Nicodemus **at night**.
	+ He met with the woman **at midday**.
* Jesus is **truth**.
	+ There is only **one way** to enter the Kingdom of God.
	+ There is only **one way** to worship God.
* Jesus is **gracious**.
	+ He gave the Nicodemus **the cure** for his terminal disease.
	+ He gave the woman **love and honor**.
* There is one **Spirit** who directs faith toward Christ.
	+ The Spirit is like the **wind.**
	+ The Spirit turns **hearts** toward God.
* Jesus gives what is **needed**; the very thing that cannot be done for **self.**
	+ Nicodemus could not **birth himself again.**
	+ The woman could not **draw living water.**