

# St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups 4<sup>th</sup> May 2008

## Being Witnesses with Jesus – in the city

### John 3:1-21



Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

*We welcome Rev Tricia Wick our Mission Partner with CMS serving in Sudan as preacher.*

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin the Jewish ruling council, a secret admirer of Jesus.

Jesus was known in the city of Jerusalem as a miracle worker someone who inspired faith in others, someone who 'knew' about others.

Nicodemus comes to Jesus by night. A seeker after Jesus.

Three things to notice about Nicodemus

- 1 He had humility to come to Jesus - he was a 'big' man and religious leader
- 2 He had courage to ask - a 'simple' question.
- 3 He was willing to challenge – not just to accept

Jesus and Nicodemus met in the city

- 1 Nicodemus was lost in the crowd but not to Jesus
- 2 Jesus stood out in the crowd and people were drawn to him
- 3 Jesus was 'visible' - he did not hide, others were watching

In Sudan the churches are full but many of those attending do so through war, aid relief and habit. Christians are often nominal with a shallow faith. Now there is peace people are focusing more on the pursuit of money. There exists a need to stand out from the crowd and family and come to Jesus as individuals. Recent 'conversions' of an influential chief and a leading member of the Mothers Union have been witnessed. There exists a need for basic teaching in the faith and firm foundations for Christian discipleship.

Here in Dorking it can seem a 'pleasant' place to serve God but let us not be complacent. Many people in our church family and in our town live out their lives working in the city. The challenge of living out a life of witness in our cities is not easy with hardness of heart, self centredness, crime and poverty but God is in the city and wants his people to come alongside and join in with what he is doing. Nicodemus came to Jesus in the city and found – new life, spiritual rebirth and eternal life. Through our life of witness may we point people to Jesus.



Witness: questions to discuss

- 1 What do you think 'Jesus' is known for in our cities?
- 2 How is Jesus 'visible' in our towns and cities?
- 2 How can we support those Christian we know who live and work 'in the city'?
- 3 In our Christian Disciple ship how do we ask the simple questions of faith?  
Are we willing to challenge and work through aspects of our faith that seem difficult to accept?  
Share with one another any challenges to your faith that you may be currently having.
- 4 Does your life draw people to Jesus?  
Do you make it easy for outsiders to come to Jesus?  
Do you put obstacles in the way?