



## The Words of Jesus Series

# Private Conversations

Jesus talks with His disciples, His mother and Nicodemus

**Course Text: John Chapters 1, 2 and 3**

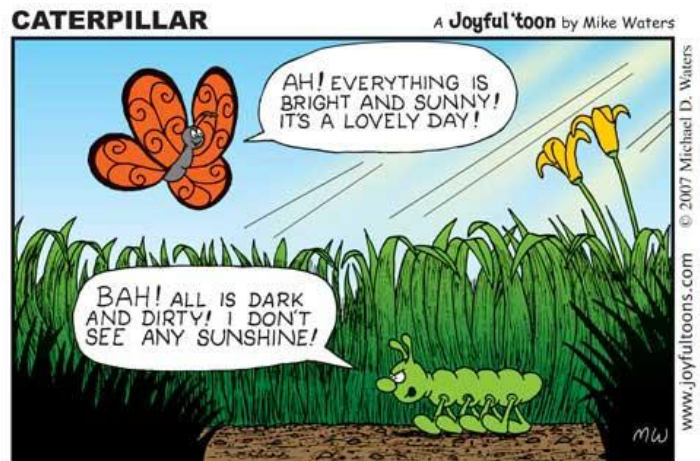
### Outline

**Lesson 1 - First Disciples** (John 1:35-51)

**Lesson 2 - Mary & His First Miracle** (John 2:1-12)

**Lesson 3 - Nicodemus Visits by Night** (John 3:1-21)

We are going to look at three private conversations in this course: one with His first disciples, one between Jesus and His mother, Mary; and between Jesus and Nicodemus, who was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin. We recommend in preparation for this course that you quickly read over John chapters 1 through 3. That will give you the context for this course, as you read the lesson passages more carefully.



In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." - JOHN 3:3 NIV

### Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought" or just start the next chapter. Of course, you can always use the standard questions, "What would you like to remember from this lesson?" or "What did you learn from this lesson that you did not know before?"

## Copyright Information

All content of this training course not attributed to others is copyrighted, including questions, formatting, and explanatory text. **Copyright © 2014 by Thor F. Carden. All rights reserved.**

Illustrations and Photos by Trish Carden Copyright © 2014 by Patricia S. Carden. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Course Logo a by Troy Cunningham Copyright © 2014 by Troy Cunningham. All rights reserved. Used by permission. <http://www.lovebiblestudy.com/Troy/art.htm>

Illustrations by Jeff Larson Copyright © 2000-2014. All rights reserved. Used by permission. <http://www.thebackpew.com>

Illustrations by Michael D Waters Copyright © 2006-2009. All rights reserved. Used by permission. <http://www.joyfultoons.com>

**NASB** or **NASV** (New American Standard Bible) Unless otherwise noted, scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

**NIV** (New International Version) Scripture taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

## ----- PRICE INFORMATION -----

This material is provided at no cost to those in jail or prison. If you are not incarcerated you have permission to print and copy these course materials as much as you like as long as you make payment for their use and keep this page intact with the contents. This is not free, except to those who are in jail or prison, and although we are a ministry, we are not a non-profit organization. We expect to be paid, to help finance our ministry to the incarcerated. We suggest two different ways of determining the price.

(1) Take up an offering from the students at the end of the course, and send it to us.

**OR**

(2) Pray about it and pay us what God tells you to send.

Of course, we have designed the website so that there is nothing to stop you from just downloading and printing the course. If you think it is worth nothing, why are you using it? If you think God would have you take or teach this course and you have no money to pay for it, I urge you to reconsider. If God does not want you to use this course He might be trying to let you know that by withholding funds. Or He might have some other purpose, like teaching you to humbly ask somebody else to fund it. Or maybe something else, but if we worship the same God, He would not have you just take it without regard to our wishes. We hope to make enough money to continue producing and providing these lessons. If God does not bless this ministry with financial encouragement, we will take that as pretty strong evidence He does not want us to make any more of these lessons available.

We prefer that you mail us a check, but you may also pay by credit card via PayPal.

Love Bible Study

PO Box 1075

Goodlettsville, TN 37070-1075

Paypal information at

<http://www.LoveBibleStudy.com/price.htm>

**Lesson 1 - First Disciples (John 1:35-51)**

John the Baptist sees Jesus after his return from the wilderness, and sends some of his own followers to follow Jesus instead. Please read John 1:35-51 and answer the following questions:

[1A] What did John the Baptist call Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_

[1B] What are the names of the two disciples who follow Jesus in John 1:37?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

[1C] Who did Andrew lead to Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_

[1D] Which is the first disciple Jesus found and called? \_\_\_\_\_

[1E] Who did Philip lead to Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_



[1F] Who did Philip say wrote about Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

[1G] What did Jesus promise the disciples would see? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

[1H] In John 1:38-39 two disciples ask Jesus a question and instead of telling them the answer, He shows them the answer. This is usually how He answers me as well. I am shown more than I am told. Is this how He answers you? Why do you think He does things this way?

Think & Pray \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 1 - First Disciples

[1A] What did John the Baptist call Jesus? the Lamb of God Jn 1:36

[1B] What are the names of the two disciples who follow Jesus in John 1:37?

Andrew and Unknown. Jn 1:40. Only one of them is named. ☺ It might have been Philip.

[1C] Who did Andrew lead to Jesus? Simon Peter Jn 1:40-42.

[1D] Which is the first disciple Jesus found and called? Philip Jn 1:43

[1E] Who did Philip lead to Jesus? Nathaniel Jn 1:40-42.

[1F] Who did Philip say wrote about Jesus? Moses and the Prophets Jn 1:45

[1G] What did Jesus promise the disciples would see?

The heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on Jesus. Jn 1:51

[1H] **Why?** For the simple reason that we remember better when we are shown.



John 1:48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?"  
Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you,  
when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

### For further thought:

(1i) Where were you and what were you doing when you first heard about Jesus? (John 1:48)

(1j) What exactly convinced you that Jesus is Lord? (John 1:49)

(1k) What is the best way to tell others about Jesus Christ? (John 1:45)

## Lesson 2 - Mary & His First Miracle (John 2:1-12)

Jesus attends a wedding feast with His family and disciples. His mother talks to Him about helping the host. Please read John 2:1-12 and answer the following questions:

[2A] Where was the wedding held? \_\_\_\_\_

[2B] How many twenty to thirty gallon water pots were there? \_\_\_\_\_

[2C] How good was the wine Jesus created?

\_\_\_\_\_

[2D] In John 2:4, Jesus says to His mother, "Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come." What was He talking about?

Think & Pray \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Lesson 2 - Mary & His First Miracle

[2A] Where was the wedding held? Cana of Galilee Jn 2:1 & 2:11

[2B] How many twenty to thirty gallon water pots were there?  
Six Jn 2:6 That is about 150 gallons total.

[2C] How good was the wine Jesus created?  
Better than what was served at first Jn 2:10

[2D] **A Time of Miracles** Critics often accuse Jesus of being rude to his mother here; by calling her "woman," however, as other phrases in the Bible and other Greek literature show, this is not a phrase of derision or rudeness but of loving respect. The term here is Jesus' normal, public way of addressing women. (See John 4:21, 8:10, 19:26, 20:31; Mt. 15:28; Lk. 13:12). It is also a common address in Greek literature, and never has the intent of disrespect or hostility. As for the second part of the response, it reads literally: "What to me and to you?" This phrase in the original Greek says that the speaker is being unjustly bothered or is being asked to get involved in a matter that is not their business. It can be impolite, but not always. The intent must be determined by the context. Considering He did as she wished He clearly did have respect for her.

As for the phrase, "My hour has not yet come," theologians speculate a lot about this. It could mean he was not ready to start performing miracles, but out of respect and obedience to His mother did anyway. It could mean that they were not entirely out of wine, and He was waiting until they were. (Verse 3 could also be validly translated, "when the wine was running out," or something of the sort.) It could have been that he was not yet ready to make His ministry public, and He was cautioning her to keep quiet about it until later. The fact that nobody seemed to be able to figure out where the wine came from suggests this last might be the right explanation.

### **For further thought::**

- (2e) In His first Miracle Jesus turns water into wine. One of the last things He did was to turn wine into blood at the last supper. Do you think there is any connection? Why or why not? (For extra fun compare this with Exodus 7:14-25)
- (2f) This is often called the first miracle of Jesus. I call it that myself in the heading of this lesson. However, there is question begging for an answer. If it is His first miracle how did Mary know He could do anything about the wine running out? (Hint: John 2:11)
- (2g) Did the wine Jesus created have any alcohol content? How do you know?

**Lesson 3 - Nicodemus Visits by Night** (John 3:1-21)

Nicodemus was a member of the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was to the Jews a sort of Legislature and Supreme Court rolled up into one. The Sanhedrin members were typically wealthy, influential, and well educated. Nicodemus was also a Pharisee. The Pharisees were like a religious denomination and political party rolled up into one. They struggled with another group called the Sadducees for control of the Sanhedrin. Pharisees were very legalist and mystical in their religious views. They had many strict rules they believed were from God, but were really just stuff they made up. They believed in angels and the resurrection of the dead. If the other Pharisees had known that Nicodemus was seeking counsel and guidance from Jesus they probably would have kicked him out of their group. That might explain why he came to Jesus by night.

Please read John 3:1-21 and answer the following questions:

[3A] Jesus said the requirement for seeing the kingdom of God was what?

---

[3B] Jesus said the requirement for entering the kingdom of God was what?

---

[3C] That which is born of flesh is what? \_\_\_\_\_

[3D] That which is born of Spirit is what? \_\_\_\_\_

[3E] Why must the Son of Man (Jesus) be lifted up?

---

[3F] Why do some men prefer darkness?

---

[3G] Explain John 3:16

Think & Pray \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

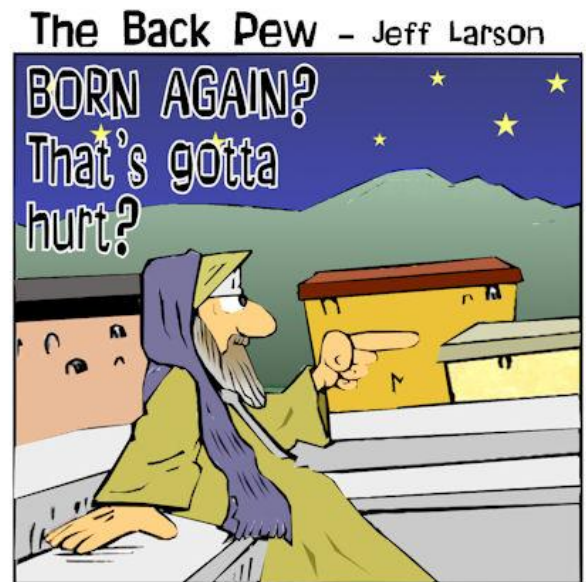
---

---

---

---

Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."



Jesus Visits Nicodemus - John 3

### **Lesson 3 - Nicodemus Visits by Night**

[3A] Jesus said the requirement for seeing the kingdom of God was what?

Being born again Jn 3:3

[3B] Jesus said the requirement for entering the kingdom of God was what?

Being born of water and the Spirit Jn 3:5

[3C] That which is born of flesh is what? Flesh Jn 3:6

[3D] That which is born of Spirit is what? Spirit Jn 3:6

[3E] Why must the Son of Man (Jesus) be lifted up?

So that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. Jn 3:14-15

[3F] Why do some men prefer darkness? Because their deeds are evil. Jn 3:19

[3G] **Gospel in a Nutshell.** God loves us. He loves us enough to give us His Son, His special Son. If we trust the Son, we will not die, but have eternal life.

**For further thought:** I spent some time looking carefully at the Greek version of this verse. Mostly it is clearly the same in Greek and English but there are two terms that deserve some additional attention:

(3h) μονογενής translated "only begotten" or "one and only" and αἰώνιος translated "eternal" or "everlasting." The first term simply has no equivalent in English. This is often used as a proof passage for God being the physical father of Jesus. Although, I believe this is true, that God is the physical father of Jesus, this term does not necessarily mean that here. It can mean that, but it can also mean something like "designated heir." Either way it means Jesus has all the authority over creation that God the Father does. Does it matter to you which it means? Why?

(3i) The other word, "eternal" or "everlasting" meant more in Greek than the English used here. We use it to mean "without a time when it will end." The Greek word also carried the notion of "without a time when it began." Could that mean we had or will have life before our conception?

(3j) Read the story of Moses lifting up the serpent in Numbers 24:4-9 and discuss the parallels to Jesus teaching here.

(3k) What did you learn in this course that you would most like to remember.

(3l) If someone asked you what this course was about what would you tell them.

(3m) Is there a verse and passage covered in this course that you would recommend be memorized.