

# John 3:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

## Analysis

---

Nicodemus is introduced with three significant identifiers: 'a man of the Pharisees,' 'named Nicodemus,' and 'a ruler of the Jews.' The name Nicodemus means 'conqueror of the people'—ironically, he comes secretly, conquered by curiosity about Jesus. As a Pharisee, he belonged to the strictest sect of Judaism; as a 'ruler' (archon), he was a Sanhedrin member. This is Israel's religious and political elite coming to Jesus.

## Historical Context

---

The Pharisees numbered about 6,000 and were known for meticulous Torah observance. The Sanhedrin was the 71-member supreme Jewish council. Nicodemus risked reputation and position by this visit. He appears two more times in John's Gospel—defending Jesus (7:50-52) and assisting His burial (19:39).

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

---

1. What barriers of reputation or position might hinder people from coming to Christ today?
2. How does Nicodemus's journey from secret inquiry to public support encourage patient evangelism?

## Interlinear Text

---

Ἐ	ν	δ	ε	ἄ	νθρωπος	ἐ	κ	τ	ῶ	ν	Φ	αρισαίων	Ν	ικόδημος
<b>There was</b>	G1161			<b>a man</b>		<b>of</b>	G3588		<b>the Pharisees</b>			<b>Nicodemus</b>		
G2258				G444		G1537			G5330			G3530		

  
ὄ	νομα	α	ντ	ῶ	ἄ	ρχων	τ	ῶ	ν	Ἰ	ουδαίων	·		
**named**	G846			**a ruler**		G3588		**of the Jews**						
G3686				G758				G2453						

## Additional Cross-References

---

**John 19:39** (Parallel theme): And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.