

John 7:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,)

Analysis

Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,) Nicodemus, the Pharisee who met Jesus in John 3, cautiously defends Him. The parenthetical 'came to Jesus by night' reminds readers of chapter 3's dialogue while highlighting Nicodemus's timidity—he came secretly. 'Being one of them' shows Nicodemus was a Sanhedrin member, thus his voice carried weight. His intervention demonstrates that not all Pharisees rejected Jesus, though most did.

Historical Context

Nicodemus appears three times in John: the night conversation (3:1-21), this defense (7:50-51), and bringing burial spices after crucifixion (19:39-40). His trajectory shows gradual movement toward open faith, though John never explicitly states he believed. Church tradition holds he became a Christian. His timid defense here contrasts with Joseph of Arimathea's later boldness (19:38). Some rulers believed but feared confession (John 12:42-43), valuing human approval over God's.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Nicodemus demonstrate gradual movement toward faith?
2. What prevents people from openly confessing Christ despite private belief?
3. How do we encourage timid believers toward open confession?

Interlinear Text

λέγει	Νικόδημος	πρὸς	αὐτῶν	ὁ	ἐλθὼν	νυκτὸς	πρὸς
saith	Nicodemus	by	them	G3588	(he that came	night	by
G3004	G3530	G4314	G846		G2064	G3571	G4314
αὐτῶν	εἷς	ὦν	ἐξ	αὐτῶν			
them	one	being	of	them			
G846	G1520	G5607	G1537	G846			

Additional Cross-References

John 19:39 (References Jesus): 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.