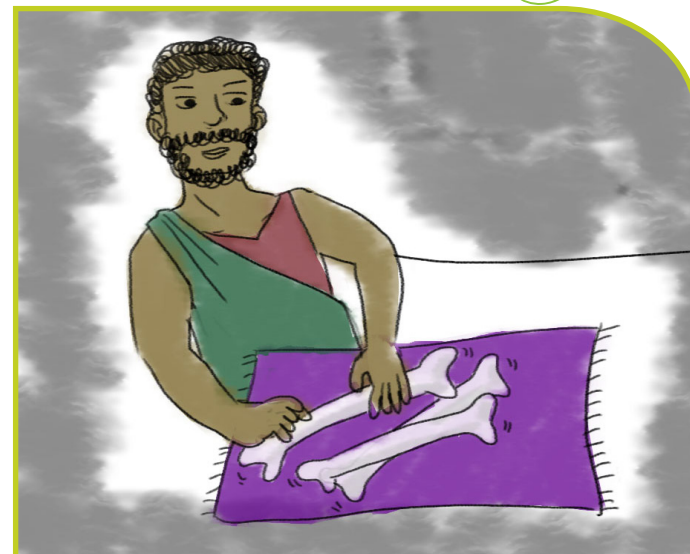


People Who Are *Born Again*



Let's read the Bible

Luke 4:16-21
 13:22-30
John 3:1-18

We consider together

Dear Jesus, I want to help others to meet with you without worrying about how others may feel about it. Please let them know how good and powerful you are. .



During the night, when everyone was asleep, Nicodemus went to see Jesus. What secret do you think he wanted to tell? His friends told him that only people who keep the law can go to heaven. But Nicodemus was always curious about this. This is because he knew people who obediently obeyed the law, but their hearts were not good, and they were not sincere. Around the time he began to have questions about eternal life, he heard an amazing rumour about Jesus Christ. He then believed that Jesus would know all the answers to his questions. Nicodemus's friends would make fun of him if they found out, so he went to Jesus late at night to ask him how he could have eternal life. Nicodemus finally met Jesus and listened to his teachings. But Jesus said something Nicodemus could not understand. Jesus said, "You must be born again in order to have eternal life."

Just like how Nicodemus went to meet Jesus during the night, Sauperi, chief of the Hauna village, also went to meet Marilyn Laszlo, a missionary serving in Papua New Guinea. Sauperi showed Marilyn a bone that he believed was a charm, and explained to Marilyn when and how it was used.

Marilyn felt like she was in a scene from a scary movie, with a dark cloud covering the room. She kept praying quietly to herself: "Jesus, I feel evil things. But You are a God who is more skilled and powerful. Please protect me from these evil spirits and stop them from doing bad things."

After praying, Marilyn held up the Bible and said in a loud voice,

"This (Bible) has the words of God our Father. God created crocodiles and the cassowary bird. ... Evil spirits do not scare me. This is because my God is greater and stronger. Sau-

peri, you must also pray to Jesus until he is in your throat (Sepik Iwam people believe their existence is in the throat)."

Sauperi placed the charm back into his bag and went back home. He asked Marilyn not to tell anyone that he had come to visit her. Marilyn could not sleep, because she did not understand why Sauperi came to her and did those things. The Hauna people believed that if you showed charms to women, that they would lose their powers.

But Sauperi continued to visit Marilyn every day, and asked her about spiritual things. He also started to ask her about the Word of God. He did this for a long time.

One night after cheerful cup of coffee (called 'sweet water' in their language), Sauperi placed a hand on the Bible and said, "Whenever you teach me about God's Word, it is so sweet, it is like sugar." He placed his cup down and said, "I want Jesus to come and live in my throat."

(Mission Possible, by Marilyn Laszlo with Luci Tumnas, referenced from pp. 99~104)

Sauperi no longer depended on charms, and found peace in his heart by relying on God.

Nicodemus became a disciple of Jesus after meeting him during the darkest time of night. When everyone said that what Jesus was teaching is wrong, Nicodemus defended Jesus and was on his side (John 7:50-52), and when Jesus died he did his best to prepare Jesus' funeral (19:39). Chief Sauperi also became a good friend of Marilyn, and became a close helper in her work. Because of Sauperi, Marilyn was able to learn a lot about the Sepik Iwam people. Let us pray that many people around the world would have hearts full of curiosity about who God is, just like Nicodemus.

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