

A night and a day in the life of Jesus.

Both days involved enquiries, water, new life and how to receive it – but each ended differently.

It was dark as he made his way up the Jerusalem street, a well dressed, well educated man with the equivalent of a theological degree; well thought of and a respected member of the city council, acknowledged as one of their leaders. He knocked on a door, was let in and introduced to Jesus. He began the conversation “Rabbi, teacher, we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you”. Jesus interrupted him “Nicodemus if you are going to get into God’s kingdom you will need to start again, born anew or again”. “But” said Nicodemus “How can that be possible?”. He hadn’t at that point understood what Jesus meant. As the conversation continued Jesus explained in detail what it meant to believe in him and so receive eternal life. It was all too much that night for Nicodemus, who of all people should have understood. He left as he had come - in the dark, bewildered and confused - for years.

It was midday. Jesus was tired and was resting. He had sent his disciples into the nearby town to buy food. They were all on their way from Jerusalem to Galilee but Jesus had decided to take the short route through the very unfriendly country of Samaria. He was sitting on his own beside a very old deep well. A woman arrived, also on her own. She was well known in the area for her past and present lifestyle, and shunned by most people, women particularly. Jesus asked her for a drink. She rebuffed his request because he had nothing to drink from and in any case, she said, Jews and Samaritans don’t have anything to do with each other. Jesus told her that if she only knew who he was she would have asked him for a drink and he would have given her ‘living water’ and she would never be thirsty again, for that water would be like a fresh, bubbling spring within her and giving her eternal life. She quickly spoke up “Sir, please give me this water. Then I’ll never be thirsty again and I won’t have to come here to get water”. She hadn’t at that point understood what Jesus meant. But as the conversation continued Jesus revealed that he knew all about her past, and present, and that he was in fact the Messiah. She immediately left her water pot (*perhaps Jesus used it*) and ran back to town telling everyone “come and see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could he possibly be the Messiah?” Many came to meet Jesus that day and they even asked him to stay the night with them. He did, for two days, during which many more came to believe and know that he was the Saviour of the world.