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You are welcome to follow Him

Looking through the eyes of a Jew living in Jerusalem year 30AD, early at the beginning of Jesus's ministry, the most well-known face would have been Nicodemus a leading Pharisee, and member of the politico-religious Sanhedrin group of seventy members.

The Pharisees were religious fanatics who expanded Moses Ten Commandments a hundred-fold and expected all "Jews" to follow in detail all these new rules to the letter but not often of the spirit of that regulation.

Nicodemus is recorded in John's gospel three times, coming to Jesus to question him after dark (in secret). Gradually becoming a believer and arguing in Jesus's favour before the Sanhedrin in John's Gospel chapter 7, then following Jesus' s crucifixion along with Joseph of Arimathea they requested Jesus's body for burial, Nicodemus providing the spices and linen, and Joseph the "Garden Tomb".

Nicodemus is reputed to have loved Jesus, possibly having been baptised by a disciple and providing a large quantity of burial spices. However, Jesus and he rarely met, so why would a strong fundamentalist pharisee want to follow Jesus?

John the Baptist as suggested is related by his mother Elizabeth to Mary, Jesus's mother; however, they grew up a great distance apart. John might have become a Temple priest like his father Zachariah but became a prophet like Elijah having a similar rustic manner and way of life. Isaiah predicted "a voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord ".

During John's proclamation period he baptised many, many, hundreds of Jews, before Jesus came and requested a symbolic baptism which included The Spirit and Voice of God. Following this event John did less before being imprisoned and beheaded by Herod.

John demanded from the Jews a" Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin" to avoid being in line to receive God's Wrath.

Many Jews came to the desert area of the river Jordon and received immersion symbolic baptism usually once and may have repented (turned from wrongdoing...sin) been sorry and planned not to repeat that wrong.

Usually in the Old Testament this may have been followed by a "sacrifice offering" at the Temple.

If a single immersion and repent was all that God required, then Jesus was not needed.

However, it was Jesus and His revelation of The Scriptures that revealed "Father God's" true nature of grace, love, forgiveness, humility, and desire to have a living relationship with all humanity.

Jesus's teaching, and together following His Father's prescription offers a new way of life.

Both God the Father, God the Son and Holy Spirit of God desire a dynamic interaction with each person, for which each must be receptive, either now or some time to come.

The Good News is God loves each of us equally. Our role is to believe, accept and return that love, not once but continually.

When we are ready to accept and return God's love, strangely we will want to obey His commandments, follow, discuss, and relate to scripture, and will find an amazing joy and peace, which is deeper and more satisfying than any other experience available to mankind.

Being Jesus's follower doesn't make us perfect, nor stop us from messing up. We still have errors of judgement and times when we are sorry for what said, done or failed to do. However, we are better than we might have been, sharing our Faith, thinking of others and being more considerate.

Popularity, Nicodemus is still only mentioned three times, John the Baptist very many times in scripture and even The Koran; and Jesus is quoted, followed, and documented by millions since 30AD and into eternity.

Jesus set the standard of how to live, wants each person to believe in Him and follow Him. We can only realistically achieve this following Him together. There are very few "Robinson Crusoe" Christians in the world.

So, your invitation now, or when you are ready, is to come and pray to Jesus and welcome Him into your life. No mobile needed, no subscription, and a listening ear at any time of your choice.

You are Welcome with Jesus!