

Does God Still Speak to People Like Us? The Conversation We've Been Waiting For

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Key Scriptures: John 3:1–6; John 4:7–14
(NIV)

Big Idea: Jesus does not give everyone the same script. He has the right conversation with the right person at the right time - and He still does.

VIDEO INTRO

(Play clip: Everybody Loves Raymond – “Counseling” episode)

Welcome...

CONVERSATIONS ARE HARD

There are moments when I don't need advice.

I don't need logic.

I don't need someone to fix things.

Sometimes I just need the **right conversation**.

And I don't think I'm alone in that.

We've all been light-hearted when we needed to be serious.

Or serious when someone just needed compassion.

We've tried to fix things with answers when what was really needed was listening.

And sometimes, if we're honest, that happens in our faith too.

WHY THIS MATTERS

You've had a rough day and someone says, "Well, it could be worse."

Or you're stuck and someone says, "Just trust God."

That sounds right.

But it doesn't always help.

Sometimes people don't know the conversation we need.

They mean well,
but they give one-size-fits-all answers.

And sometimes religion sounds exactly like that.

RELIGION GIVES SCRIPTS

Religion often gives the same script to everyone.

Struggling? Read your Bible more.

Doubting? Have more faith.

Feeling lost? Go to church.

Those things matter.

But they don't always speak to the **actual moment** someone is in.

Religion assumes that if we say the right thing,
everything will fall into place.

Religion gives scripts.

And sometimes those scripts miss the moment.

This is where Jesus is different.

Jesus doesn't give scripts.

Jesus has conversations.

RELIGION GIVES SCRIPTS – JESUS HAS CONVERSATIONS

Open your Bible to John chapter 3.

Then turn the page to John chapter 4.

These stories are right next to each other.

Same Jesus.

Same truth.

Very different conversations.

That's intentional.

NICODEMUS – JOHN 3

Nicodemus was a Pharisee.

A respected religious leader.

He knew Scripture.

He knew theology.

As a Jew, his birthright mattered deeply.

He could trace his lineage back to Abraham, even to Adam.

He knew his tribe.

He knew his family story.

For Nicodemus, who he was born as meant everything.

So he comes to Jesus at night.

And Jesus challenges the thing Nicodemus trusted most.

John 3:3 (NIV)

“Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

Jesus wasn't talking about behavior.
He was talking about **birth**.

John 3:5–6 (NIV)

“No one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.”

Nicodemus thought Jesus meant something physical.

Jesus was talking about something deeper.
Something spiritual.

Your first birth gave you a name.
But it can't give you new life.

Your birth is not enough.

You must be **born again**.

This was the conversation Nicodemus needed.

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL – JOHN 4

Now turn the page.

John chapter 4.

Where Nicodemus came at night,
this woman comes in the middle of the day.

She's a Samaritan.

An outsider.

Avoiding people.

And Jesus speaks to her.

John 4:7 (NIV)

“Will you give me a drink?”

Jesus doesn't start with correction.

He starts with connection.

John 4:14 (NIV)

“Whoever drinks the water I give them will
never thirst.”

Nicodemus needed to be shaken up.

She needed to be lifted up.

Same Jesus.

Different conversations.

BRINGING IT HOME

Jesus is still speaking.

Right now.

Maybe you're like Nicodemus.

Comfortable. Settled.

Or maybe you're like the woman at the well.

Tired. Unseen.

Jesus may not give us the conversation we want.

But He always gives us the conversation we need.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR US – AND FOR THE CHURCH

If we follow Jesus,
we have to learn to listen like Jesus.

We can't lead with scripts
when people need conversations.

Our message is not just information.

Our message is transformation.

**And transformation always begins with an
invitation.**

{Musician}

{hand out cards}

This is an invitation.

Good conversations take intentional space.

So we're going to slow down.

For the next three to four minutes,
pray, reflect, and write.

On the front of the card answer:

- What conversation does God want to have with me?
- What conversation do I need to have with someone else?
- What conversation might our church need to have with our community?

On the back, write 1 to 3 simple actions you will take for better conversation.

- Pause and pray before I speak
- Listen more than I talk
- Slow down and be present
- Ask better questions
- **I want to stop talking at God and start listening for God**

As the musician plays I want you to pray
and make a commitment.

Keep this card with you this week.

Let's pray together.