

## Level 5, Quarter B, Lesson 2—Jesus Leads

### Nicodemus' Journal

Summer, AD 26—I am following peculiar events in Galilee very closely. Some friends of mine, good Pharisees, ventured into the wilderness and talked with a rough-cut man named John. He appeared from nowhere, telling our people to repent and to prepare for the Messiah. He seems to be genuine, but his lifestyle is very odd. People are flocking to John—he's a powerful speaker. I need to plan a trip up there to see him for myself.

Fall, AD 26—When John baptized a man named Jesus, God spoke from heaven and a dove came down. John has been telling people that Jesus is the anointed One. This situation could become alarming.

Passover Week, AD 27—This man named Jesus came to Jerusalem for Passover. He entered the Temple and caused all sorts of trouble: upending tables, driving people and animals out with a whip, and telling people that God's house is for prayer. Who does He think He is? Someone must stop this Jesus before things really get bad!

Passover Week, AD 27—I joined a large crowd and listened to Jesus speak—what a spellbinding storyteller! People were hanging on every word. Jesus openly opposed the Jewish leaders, though. Strangely, I agree with most things Jesus says. It's hard to argue against Him.

Passover Week, AD 27—I saw Jesus heal someone today! This was genuine; no magic or trickery involved. It's time to sit down and talk with this man—away from the crowd and all the excitement.

Passover Week, AD 27—I interviewed Jesus this evening—and the conversation went in an entirely different direction than I had expected. He told me that no one could even see the kingdom of God without a rebirth. I tried to probe further, but Jesus kept talking about God's love, eternal life, believing in God's Son, and being born again. I was very impressed with Jesus' sincerity. What He said was fascinating, but confusing. Now I have a lot of things to rethink.

Feast of Tabernacles, AD 29—Jesus is back in the city. Everyone wants to hear Him speak and to see Him perform a miracle. Several of my rabbi friends are jealous of His popularity. The Council sent the Temple police to arrest Jesus, but they came back empty-handed. After the police listened to Jesus, they couldn't bring themselves to do it! The rest of the Council was really irritated, but I stood up and reminded them that our Law does not permit us to judge anyone before a proper hearing. But that set them against me! Lord God, what's going on here?

Passover, AD 30—These past few days have been unimaginable! Jesus was illegally arrested, tried, and crucified. I'm so ashamed of the way the High Priest and the Council have acted. This afternoon I joined my friend Joseph and brought spices to help wrap Jesus' body for burial. Where will all this lead?