



Walking at **Night**



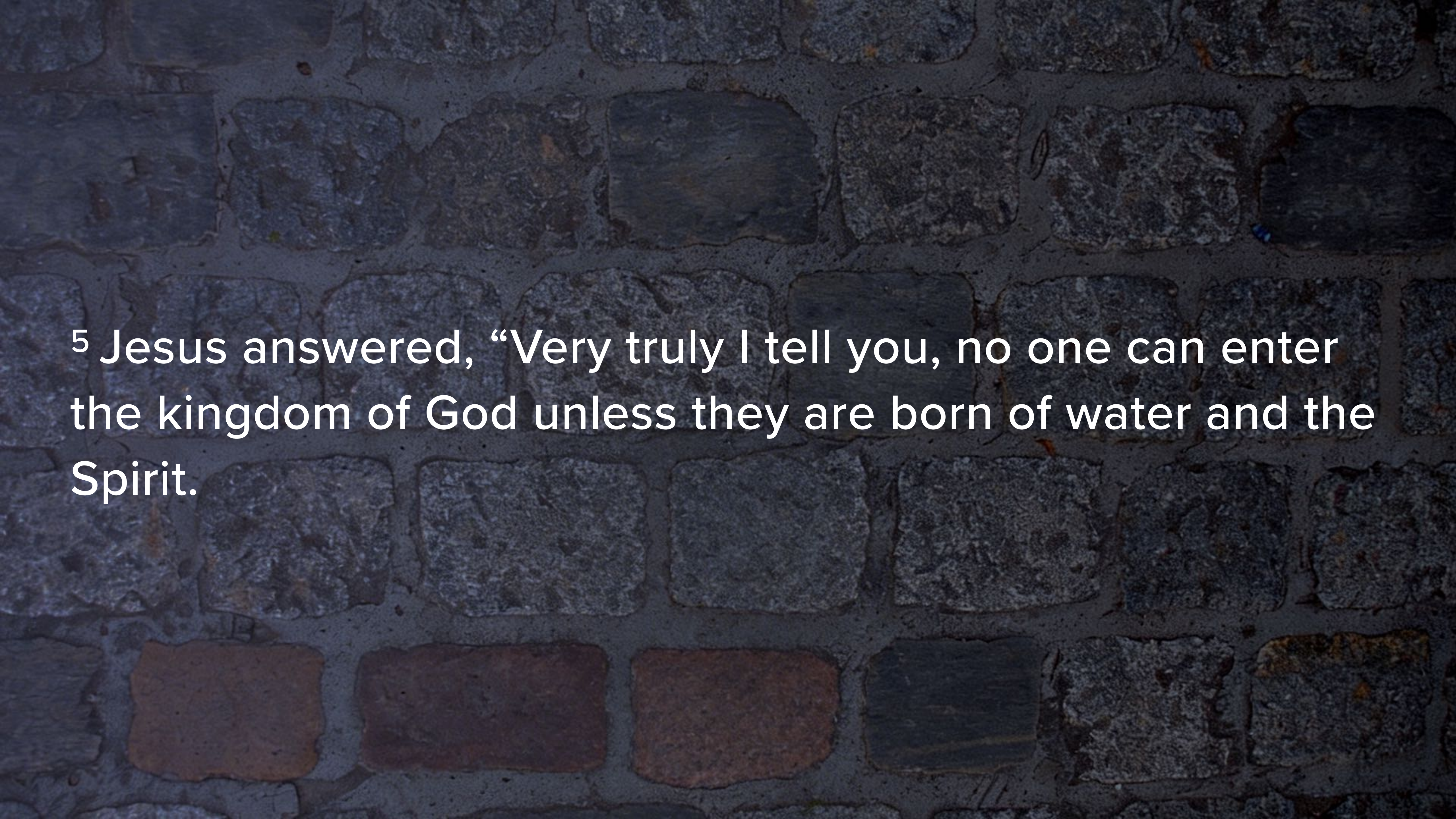
## John 3:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

<sup>4</sup> “**How can someone be born** when they are old?”

Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”



<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

*Do I need to be baptized to be a Christian?*

The Word is proclaimed, people are baptized, and then the Spirit is received. (Acts 8:14-17)

The Spirit falls on all who hear the Word of God and people are baptized. (Acts 10:44-48)



<sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> “**How can this be?**” Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup> “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?”

<sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> **Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,** <sup>15</sup> **that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”**

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

## John 3:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> **He came to Jesus at night...**

**Why does Nicodemus  
come at night?**

**Maybe he couldn't sleep.**

## Psalm 77:1-9

- <sup>1</sup> Cry aloud to God,  
aloud to God, and he will hear me.
- <sup>2</sup> In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;  
**in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;**  
my soul refuses to be comforted.
- <sup>3</sup> When I remember God, I moan;  
when I meditate, my spirit faints. *Selah*

**4 You hold my eyelids open;**

I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

**5** I consider the days of old,  
the years long ago.

**6** I said, “**Let me remember my song in the night;**  
let me meditate in my heart.”

Then my spirit made a diligent search:

<sup>7</sup> “Will the Lord spurn forever,  
and never again be favorable?

<sup>8</sup> Has his steadfast love forever ceased?

Are his promises at an end for all time?

<sup>9</sup> Has God forgotten to be gracious?

Has he in anger shut up his compassion?” *Selah*

The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a stone or brick wall, with a yellow bar at the bottom. The text is centered and reads: 

**Maybe he was filled with grief.**

## Psalm 6:6-7

6 I am worn out from my groaning.  
All night long I flood my bed with weeping  
and drench my couch with tears.

7 My eyes grow weak with sorrow;  
they fail because of all my foes.

“And so sitting in night became a time of anxiety and fear and doubt, and also grief, which I think, honestly, grief is kind of the driver of anxiety in a lot of ways for a lot of us.”

TISH HARRISON WARREN

*Prayer in the Night*

**Maybe he felt exposed, anxious,  
and afraid.**

# Psalm 139

<sup>13</sup> For you formed my inward parts;  
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
my soul knows it very well.

<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

“...each night we practice facing our truest state:  
we are exposed, we cannot control our lives, we will  
die... The darkness of nighttime amplifies grief and  
anxiety. ... We are all so very, very vulnerable.”

TISH HARRISON WARREN

*Prayer in the Night*

**Whatever the reason...**

**You can come to Jesus at night.**

**1. Jesus will *wait* with you  
through the night.**

## Exodus 12

<sup>40</sup> Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. <sup>41</sup> At the end of the 430 years, to the

<sup>21</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness spreads over Egypt—darkness that can be felt." <sup>22</sup> So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. <sup>23</sup> No one could see anyone else or move about for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.

**very day, all the Lord's divisions left Egypt. <sup>42</sup> Because the Lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the Lord for the generations to come.**

**Psalm 121, *a song of ascents.***

**1** I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?

**2** My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

**3** He will not let your foot slip—  
**he who watches over you will not slumber;**

**4** indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

- 5 The Lord watches over you—  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
- 6 the sun will not harm you by day,  
**nor the moon by night.**
- 7 The Lord will keep you from all harm—  
**he will watch over your life;**
- 8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.

**2. You will need to *walk* with  
Jesus at night.**

## Exodus 13

<sup>20</sup> And they moved on from Succoth and encamped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. <sup>21</sup> And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and **by night in a pillar of fire to give them light,** that they might travel by day and by night. <sup>22</sup> The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

“But unless we make space for grief, we cannot know the depths of the love of God, the healing God wrings from pain, the way grieving yields wisdom, comfort, even joy. If we do not make time for grief, it will not simply disappear. Grief is stubborn. It will make itself heard or we will die trying to silence it. If we don't face it directly it comes out sideways, in ways that aren't always recognizable as grief: explosive anger, uncontrollable anxiety, compulsive shallowness, brooding, bitterness, unchecked addiction. Grief is a ghost that can't be put to rest until its purpose has been fulfilled.”

TISH HARRISON WARREN

*Prayer in the Night*

## **John 19**

**38 Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. 39 He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night.**

## **Psalm 77:1-9**

**16** When the waters saw you, O God,  
when the waters saw you, they were afraid;  
Indeed, the deep trembled.

**19** Your way was through the sea,  
your path through great waters;  
Yet your footprints were unseen.

**20** You led your people like a flock  
By the hand of Moses and Aaron.

“Although this happy night brings darkness to the spirit, it does so only to give it light in everything; and that, although it humbles it and makes it miserable, it does so only to exalt it and to raise it up; and, although it impoverishes it and empties it of all natural affection and attachment, it does so only that it may enable it to stretch forward, [by God’s power], and thus to have fruition and experience of all things, both above and below, yet to preserve its unrestricted liberty of spirit in them all.”

ST JOHN OF THE CROSS

*Dark Night of the Soul*

## PRAYER:

“Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep [or walk] this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love’s sake. Amen.”

