

Jesus 101

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

“Whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.” –John 3:15

In some countries, couples to be married typically send two separate wedding invitations. Because most couples cannot afford a dinner for all the wedding guests, they send one invitation for the wedding ceremony, to many people, and the other one for the reception, to only a few close friends and family. I know of a bride and groom who decided to do something different. They sent out only one invitation, and when the service was over, the officiating pastor invited all the guests to the festivities that followed. The menu was scaled down to a bare minimum, but everyone was surprised and had a great time at the reception.

Nicodemus was a renowned person, a ruler of the Jews (John 3:1). He was baffled when Jesus explicitly told him that he had to be born again. But perhaps one of the most radical statements of Jesus in the interaction with Nicodemus was His use of the word *“whoever”* or *“everyone”* (Greek *pas*). *“Whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life”* (John 3:15, 16). This is a shocking news: God’s embrace includes everyone who believes in His Son! How could this be? *Everyone* who looks at the cross and believes in Him has eternal life. *Whoever, everyone, each person* who understands that they cannot save themselves and looks up to the Savior will live. For some reason, this truth is harder for Pharisees to understand than for public sinners (see Matthew 21:31). The latter already know their need, but the Pharisees . . . not so much. The disciples of Jesus also struggled with the reality of God’s inclusive embrace for *all*, regardless of race, color, language, et cetera (see Acts 10:28, 34, 35). Is there someone in your circle who needs to know that they are included in the statement of truth that Jesus gave to Nicodemus? Think about specific people—perhaps your teenage grandchild, with his green hair and the belly button ring. How about your ex-convict neighbor, or the girl in your congregation who got pregnant out of wedlock? Let them know! I am grateful that *whoever* includes even me.

Talbot, Elizabeth *Jesus Wins!*, p. 235.