



Four glimpses of a life

- Imagine a 1st century surveillance video
 - Posted for all the world to see
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1. Openness to Jesus

➤ John 3:1-

➤ **Most** famous interchange in the Bible: Jn 3:16

- Member of the Jewish ruling council vs 1
- Came at night: afraid, but open,
- A private conversation with Jesus
- Spoke of spiritual rebirth
- Jesus asked “ Are you Israel’s teacher...?” (impt)
- Many have had a private encounter with Jesus

2. Somewhat standing up

➤ Jn 7:40 - 52

➤ People were divided

➤ Some thought he was a prophet

➤ Some wanted to kill him

➤ The Jewish ruling council were plotting

➤ “Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, ⁵¹ “Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?”

3. Complicit

- **Mk 15:1**
 - **Teachers of the law**
 - **Whole Sanhedrin**
- **They, including Nicodemus, had Jesus killed**

3. Complicit

- Jn 19:28-40
- Was Nicodemus silent while the whole Sanhedrin made plans to kill Jesus?
- Was Nicodemus a spy sent to help make plans to kill an innocent man but still wanted to worship God in the traditional Passover
- Was Nicodemus swept up into the crowd mentality when they shouted “Give us Barabbas”
- How did Nicodemus respond when they shouted “Crucify Him.”

4. Forever sorry

- **John 19:38-40**
- **Joseph of Arimathea a disciple, afraid to stand up for what is right**
- **Nicodemus: Once open to Jesus, Complicit, still focused on the Jewish rituals, rather than the morality of standing up for an innocent man.**
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When you see...

- ▶ ...Someone being mistreated you come to their aid:
- ▶ Good Samaritan: Lk 10:25ff
 - ▶ Priest: made sacrifices for the people
 - ▶ Levite: One who took care of the temple
 - ▶ Samaritan: 1/2 Jewish, 1/2 people planted by Assyria.
 - ▶ Jesus condemned Religious people in this parable for not getting involved
 - ▶ Last week: one of modern sins is “flip flopping”
 - ▶ How have you been complicit in hatred?
 - ▶ Not standing up to the rhetoric of a religious person

So What?

- **News Flash! Your religious friends don't always do the right things**
 - **Listen carefully to their conversation for**
 - **Hatred,**
 - **bolstering themselves,**
 - **mob mentality**
- **When something is wrong/sin, say it is sin!**
- **Carefully consider all perspectives**
- **If you have time, carefully consider all perspectives**
 - **Take a stand**
 - **I didn't**