

Commentary on the Gospel for Thu, Apr 19th 2012

Nicodemus appears three times in John's Gospel (chapters 3, 7, and 19). In all three scenes he is hesitating and hanging back, or he is arriving too late. Compare him with Thomas. Thomas was a man who wanted to be able to understand: "we don't know where you are going, how can we know the way?" (Jn 14:5): still he was ready to take a risk; "Let us go and die with him (Jn 11:16). But Nicodemus was more like a man looking for reasons not to act. This is why Thomas is an apostle, preaching the Resurrection, while Nicodemus' career ended with his bringing spices to anoint the dead body of Jesus.

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