

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

March 11, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Lent

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 + Ephesians 2: 4-10 + John 3: 14-21



Reflection by: Sister Barbara Moore, OP

Questions

Who was this man, who came in the night with questions? Darkness has a way of allowing unfinished day-wonderings to re-surface. The rabbi Jesus was a teacher, but more. God seemed to have a part in Jesus' mission and preaching. It seemed so. Nicodemus didn't get it, though, a bit of confusion about being "born again." Yet it seems he continued in Jesus' shadow—taking his part against accusing Pharisees and finally along with Joseph, claiming Jesus' body and preparing it for burial.

I'd like to think in the end, he finally understood faith as the gift Paul's letter reminds us of today. It is just there for us, as we muddle through our own confusions when we just don't "get it" either.

Lent invites us in darkness and quiet to consider our contemporary ponderings: embracing Gospel Justice, protecting God's creation, nurturing spiritual fulfillment (Liturgical Press/Lent). Like Nicodemus, we journey in Jesus' shadow, questioning, with faithful determination.

Image: Henry Ossawa Tanner 1859-1937, Study for Christ and Nicodemus on a Rooftop, ca. 1898-1899, Oil on wood panel, 9 1/2 x 13 in. (24.0 x 33.0 cm.), Smithsonian American Art Museum