



March 11, 2018 John 3: 14-21 & 2 Chron. 36: 14-23

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#### **ENTERING THE SCENE:**

As we enter chapter three of John we find: 1 There was one of the Pharisees called Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews,<sup>2</sup> who came to Jesus by night and said, 'Rabbi, we know that you have come from God as a teacher; for no one could perform the signs that you do unless God were with him.' It is interesting that John sets this encounter in the dark of night. Jesus uses this cover of darkness to uncover the light of his truth. We will encounter Nicodemus again (Jn. 19: 39) later on and find that he has indeed found the 'light'. This time he has the courage to do what needs to be done in the light. How can this Lent help me to find this same courage?

#### **John 3:14-21**

14 Just as **Moses lifted up the snake** in the desert, so the **Son of Man** must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes in him may have **eternal life**. 16 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. 18 Whoever believes in him is not **condemned**, but whoever does not believe stands **condemned** already because he has not believed in the **name** of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the **verdict**: **Light** has come into the **world**, but men loved **darkness** instead of **light** because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil **hates** the **light**, and will not come into the **light** for **fear** that his **deeds** will be **exposed**. 21 But whoever lives by the **truth** comes into the **light**, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Jesus asks us to come into the light and live with integrity. What or who helps you to do that?

**PRAYER:** Living in the light means living in love; a love that faces its failures and learns from them; a love that uses each lesson as a course in compassion and acknowledges that God is the source of all that is. As I work my way through my Lenten practices I realize ever more clearly my failures to love. Gracious God, help me as I lift my eyes to my "serpents" like the people in the desert with Moses, in order to love more like you. Amen.