

Believe and Have Life

The Gospel of John

John 3:1-21

Read John 3:1-21.

1. Who is Nicodemus? (vv. 1, 10)
2. What has been the reaction of the Jewish authorities to John the Baptist and Jesus so far? (1:19, 24-25; 2:18-20)

Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night?

3. How does Nicodemus address Jesus and why is this significant? (v. 2)
4. Jesus responds to Nicodemus with a radical statement explaining how one gains access into God's kingdom. The Pharisees carefully followed the law of Moses and believed they had automatic access to the kingdom by birthright. How do you suppose Nicodemus felt about Jesus' declaration that he must be born again?

To what type of birth did Nicodemus assume Jesus was referring? (v. 4)

5. How does Jesus define what it means to be born again? (vv. 5-7)

Is it possible to enter the kingdom of God without being born again? (vv. 3, 5)

6. Jesus uses the illustration of wind to describe the mystery of being born of the Spirit. What are some attributes of the wind that also describe the Holy Spirit? (v. 8)

7. As “Israel’s teacher” (v. 10), what should Nicodemus have known from the prophets? (Ez. 11:19-20; 36:25-27; * Jer. 31:31-34)
8. What does Jesus claim about himself? (vv. 11-13)
9. In verses 14-15, Jesus answers Nicodemus' question as to how he can be born again. Read Numbers 21:4-9.
- a. Why was the snake lifted up in the desert?
 - b. What did the Israelites gain when they looked at the bronze snake?
 - c. What do we gain by believing in Jesus? (vv. 15-16)
10. It was confusing to many of Jesus’ followers when they saw him die, lifted up on a cross. Nicodemus, however, likely remembered this conversation with Jesus. What did he do that suggests he ultimately put his faith in Jesus? (19:38-40)
11. What has Jesus come into the world to do? (v. 17)

What makes the difference between whether we stand condemned or not? (v. 18)

12. Read verses 19-21. Why do men choose darkness over light?

How does our re-birth change our attitude toward the light?

What are the blessings that you are experiencing because God has brought you into the light? (Review the passage.)

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.