

You Must Be Born Again

“Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with Him.” ³ In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” ⁴ “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” ⁵ Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” ⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 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. ¹⁷ 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.”

- John 3:1-18

The Man

His Name: Nicodemus — Nike. “Victor over the people”

His Resume:

- A Jew — (John 8:39 - “Abraham is our father,” they answered.)
- A Pharisee — keeping the “letter of the law”

Pharisee	Sadducee	Zealot	Essene
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- A member of the Sanhedrin — Jewish ruling council
“Then He said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance...” - Exodus 24:1
- Israel’s teacher — this man was a celebrity
- An older man — (Nicodemus deserves a lot of credit!)

The Motivation

He wanted to acknowledge Jesus without being noticed.

“...accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night” - Jn. 19:39

He wanted to show respect — “Rabbi”

He wanted to acknowledge Jesus’ power and His teaching without acknowledging His nature (Many people are like this today.)

“Many saw the miraculous signs He was doing and believed in His name. - John 2:23

He wanted to ask a question, but he was afraid.

“He did not need any testimony about mankind, for He knew what was in each person.” – Jn 2:25

The Moment

For every person that Jesus meets, there is a life-changing moment. (woman at the well; man at the pool; rich young ruler; Zacchaeus; etc.)

- It shows us that our message is not to be of a “cookie-cutter” style.

“In reply Jesus declared” — this is emphatic!

“Truly, Truly” — (Amen, Amen) — it means that what I tell you is a foundational truth.

Nicodemus was confused and Jesus scolds him! (You should not be surprised; you are Israel’s teacher; but still you people do not accept; how will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?)

- The concept of water and Spirit: It is first taught in the Old Testament! (Ezekiel 36:24-27; Numbers 19:17-19; Isaiah 4:4; Joel 2:28-29)
- The concept of fleshly born and spiritually born: It is obvious.
- The concept of the wind: It is not controlled by people.

The Moment: You must be re-born to have the hope of heaven!

“You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’” – John 3:7

The Message (vs. 13-18)

1. The authority of Jesus: Jesus came from heaven, and He has authority to speak the Truth. So, listen up! (13)
2. The curse of Man: Jesus will be lifted up (like a snake on a pole) and everyone who looks to Him will have eternal life. (14-15)
“The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.” - Numbers 21:8,9
3. The love of God: He loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son to save us! (16)
4. The hope for mankind: Jesus didn’t come to condemn us. (17)
5. The promise of God: If you believe in God’s Son for the cure of your curse, you will not be condemned. (18)

Your Moment?: *Have you been re-born?*

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