

Sermon March 5, 2023

John 3: 1-17

You Must be Born Again

John 3: 1-2

“Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.”

Nicodemus was one of many in the crowds that witnessed the miracles being preformed by Jesus. He was a member of the council of the Sanhedrin and was drawn by this man named Jesus. Nicodemus, one of many on the council was the only one drawn from among his peers, for they too were witness to the same miracles.

Was this man a Prophet or gifted Rabbi? The question was driving him to want to know more but yet knew of the growing animosity building among his peers on the council and in the Temple against Jesus.

Yet, he was afraid to come to Jesus in broad daylight for the fear of the Sanhedrin. So, under the cover of darkness, he comes and finds Jesus and address him as “Rabbi” and greets him with respect for within Nicodemus the birth of new faith for Jesus through the Holy spirits work for him to even state for “God is with you”!

Jesus then replies back to him in a way to drive Nicodemus to question based on his own human understanding. Just as we too question what God is doing in our own lives right now, how can that be, why is this happing to me?

We have more questions about why are you doing this or how are you going to get me through this trial? How can I know I am saved. When we seek God asking questions and drive us to know more about Jesus.

John 3: 3-4

“Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again[a] he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?”

(Footnotes: John 3:3 Or from above; the Greek is purposely ambiguous and can mean both again.)

So, looking at this from the Greek to English – “Truly, truly I say to you unless one is born from **above**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Or, from the Homilies on the Gospel from our church Fathers:

If you are not born again, if you do not share in the spirit that comes through the washing of regeneration, everything you think about me will be from a human point of view, not spiritual but carnal.

Nicodemus was responding to Jesus statement as the world would respond, what how can you enter a second time into your Mothers womb?

Are you born of the spirit; are you led through the wilderness of life by the Holy Spirit daily? Jesus warns if you are not, you will not see the Kingdom , you will be missing out on all that Jesus offers us daily. His true healing, true compassion, true Love, true salvation and true mercy.

John 3: 5-8

“Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.^[a] 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You^[b] must be born again.’ The wind^[c] blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

To be Baptized to be washed anew in the elements of water his living water at Baptism. Washed like you never have been with before with a new Spirit the wind that Jesus is talking about. The rushing of the wind that came upon the Disciples on Pentecost!

The unbelievable transfiguration of our very daily lives if we seek and become in body and soul with Jesus Christ, our rebirth in a new way of thinking and living.

The Holy Spirit will continue to uplift even when we are in the middle of our life's trials, our own human nature.

John 3: 9-10

‘Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?”

Jesus is humbling one who is not used to be corrected or questioned, yet he does it to build and lead Nicodemus to faith that became a strong supporter and follower of Jesus.

Jesus is doing just that to us every day by teaching us what at times we do not understand, our own helplessness without him his Spirit that truly needs to be born in us!

John 3: 12-15

“If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.^[a]¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.^[b]

Jesus is telling us we must know the need for Spiritual rebirth to put away our earthly carnal minds to see him as the true Son Of God.

He was instructing Nicodemus and he is instructing all who seek his Kingdom. You must first come to the Son Of God to achieve a new life of freedom from our sins and the failures in our own flesh.

Each day renew and refresh or reboot your mind and heart by getting into his word and know and remind you of your rebirth in the Holy Spirit!

John 3; 16-17

“For God so loved the world,^[a] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Greater words you will never hear from the lips of Jesus! Jesus became a sacrifice for our sins, your sins my sins the sins of all! He was murdered for us, his blood ran red down that cross and dripped on the ground. He became the sacrificial lamb for all eternity!

Lets pray this together:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior.

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a
wretch like me I once was lost, but now I'm found Was
blind but now I see 'Twas grace that taught my heart to
fear And grace my fears relieved How precious did that
grace appear The hour I first believed Through many
dangers, toils, and snares I have already come This
grace that brought me safe thus far And grace will lead
me home When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright, shining as the sun We've no less days to sing
God's praise Than when we first begun Amazing grace
how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me I once
was lost, but now I'm found Was blind but now I see