

**GOSPEL OF JOHN**  
**YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!**  
**JOHN 3:1-22**

**Introduction:**

One of the greatest tragedies today is that there are, no doubt, many religious people who **attend** and may even be **active** in some Church or religious gathering, but they have never been born again and therefore they do not possess eternal life and will not be going to heaven!

Here in John chapter three we see Jesus talking with one who was in such a condition—A man by the name of Nicodemus. In His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus very clearly explains the importance of being born again, what being born again is, and how one can be born again!

Today let's see three very important things that Jesus tells Nicodemus!  
First of all Jesus tells Nicodemus here that:

**I. IN ORDER TO SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!**  
*(Vs. 3, 5)*

Now to understand the significance of this, we need to understand who Jesus is talking to.

**A. Nicodemus Was A Very Religious Man!**  
**Vs. 1 says that Nicodemus was a Pharisee.**

Pharisees were Separatists who were meticulous about keeping themselves from personal defilement or anything else that would break the Old Testament Law. Nicodemus would have been one of the most **religious** people of his day.

In fact, *vs 10* says that he was a “*master of Israel*” meaning that he was a great *Teacher of the Law*. And yet in spite of all his religious credentials, Jesus still tells him that **in order for him to enter and see the kingdom of God, he must be born again.**

In the New Testament, the term “*Kingdom of God*” is normally used of the future, earthly Davidic kingdom that was promised in the Old Testament!

**GOSPEL OF JOHN**  
**YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!**  
**JOHN 3:1-22**

The *Kingdom of God* and the *Kingdom of Heaven* are normally used to describe the same Kingdom as we see them often used interchangeably in the New Testament.

So what was Nicodemus' understanding of this *Kingdom of God*? Nicodemus was, as most every Jew was, **looking for Messiah to come and to set up His Kingdom on earth!** Because the Old Testament Prophets revealed that this would take place.

But what the Prophets **could not** and **did not** see was the time period of the Church! **The Church was a *mystery*!**

Now we know that the *Kingdom of God* will **not** come until **after** the Great Tribulation and the Second Coming of Christ!

But the truth of WHEN the Kingdom was going to be established is NOT the truth that Jesus was teaching Nicodemus! The truth that Jesus was teaching was WHO would be entering that Kingdom!

And Nicodemus erroneously thought he would enter the Kingdom because he was a Jew!

But Jesus was teaching exactly the same truth as that is taught in the Old Testament! No one will enter the *Kingdom of God* who has not first been cleansed and regenerated!  
*(See Ezekiel 36:24-28)*

The *New Covenant*, involving **regeneration**, precedes the establishment of the Davidic Kingdom—The Kingdom of God!

Listen to me, there are a lot of people today who are expecting to get into Heaven and the *Kingdom of God* because they belong to a certain Church or because they adhere to a set of principles in their life or because they're sincere in their beliefs.

**GOSPEL OF JOHN**  
**YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!**  
**JOHN 3:1-22**

**But if Nicodemus' religion wasn't enough to get him to into the Kingdom of God, neither is yours!**

There is only one way to Heaven **and** the Kingdom of God and that is God's way, which is through Jesus Christ – He's the only way you can go to Heaven. Jesus said – *John 3:7*–  
“*Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*”

*Nicodemus was not only a very Religious man. . .*

**B. Nicodemus Was A Very Prestigious Man!**

According to *vs. 1*, we find that Nicodemus was *a ruler of the Jews*.

The Jews were ruled by a group of seventy Pharisees known as “*the council*” and also known as “*the Sanhedrin*.”

*The Sanhedrin* was the Jewish Supreme Court so to speak. This man had made it to the top of the ladder in the eyes of his society.

*Yet, in spite of being a very religious man and a very prestigious man:*

**C. Nicodemus Was A Very Lost Man!**

He was **doing** all that he could to try to fulfill the tenants of Judaism, the religion that he grew up in! After all, he was more religious than most because he was a Pharisee!

But Jesus revealed to him that **all that he had done and was doing** wasn't enough to get him into the kingdom of God!

Its sad to say, but even today there are many folks who have grown up very religious, but they are hopelessly lost!

I don't think Nicodemus had a clue to the reality of his lostness! He thought everything was OK!

**GOSPEL OF JOHN**  
**YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!**  
**JOHN 3:1-22**

Listen to me this, if you are trying to get to heaven by your own efforts, you need to forget all of that! Repent and come to Jesus Christ and believe on Him and His finished work on the Cross of Calvary and allow Him to create a new person in you and make you fit for the Kingdom of God!

So, Jesus told Nicodemus first of all: *IN ORDER TO SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!*

Secondly, Jesus explained to him. . .

**II. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BORN AGAIN. (Vs. 4 -5)**

We know that this new birth has EVERYTHING to do with Jesus: Because, Jesus very emphatically states later in *John 14:6*– “*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*”

Nicodemus was obviously confused and having a difficult time understanding what Jesus meant by saying to him that he *must be born again*. (*Vs 4*)

And so Jesus explained to him in *vs. 5* the nature of what it means to be *born again*.

**1. Jesus says first of all, a person must be born of water.**

This is that physical birth we all have been through – that is if you are normal. It was our physical birth that gave all of us life here on Earth.

**2. Then he goes on to say that you must be born of the Spirit.**

And the reason we all must be *born of the Spirit* is because from the day we were born physically, **we were born with a nature and tendency to sin!**

The Bible teaches according to *Ephesians 2:1*, that from birth we were all *dead in our trespasses and sins* – unable to do what is right:

That's why an unsaved sinner continually struggles with sin.

**GOSPEL OF JOHN**  
**YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!**  
**JOHN 3:1-22**

Spiritually he is dead and has no power to give up sinning!

That is why -

- \* A gambler will continue to gamble even though his credit card is maxed and his checking account overdrawn.
- \* A drunkard will continue to drink, even though he knows his family has no food on the table at home.
- \* A drug addict will continue to stick a dirty needle in his veins knowing he might get AIDS or some other infection.
- \* A thief will continue to steal at the risk of being incarcerated.

All sinners are powerless to give up sin because in their natural condition they are spiritually dead and need Jesus Christ to make them alive!

And when Jesus sets one free from sin, the Bible says: *John 8:36* – “*If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*” **AND**

*2 Corinthians 5:17*– “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*”

You see when you allow the LORD to come into your heart and life, he not only saves you and seals you, but He transforms you and breaks the chains of sin that bind you!

It doesn't mean that you become sinless. . .but you will definitely have a desire to sin less. . .and you will sin less!

That is the Nature of the New Birth! Do you have it? Have you been born again?

Listen, the only way one can go to Heaven when they die is to be born again, and if your aren't born again, God is giving you another chance to do that today.

**GOSPEL OF JOHN**  
**YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!**  
**JOHN 3:1-22**

Jesus told Nicodemus:

1. Ye must be born again.
2. What it means to be born again.

**III. HOW TO BE BORN AGAIN. (Vs. 4, 9, 14-18)**

Jesus explained the simplicity of being born again by using an Old Testament story found in *Numbers 21:8-9* that Nicodemus would have been familiar with.

The people of God were discouraged because of their journey through the wilderness and began to speak against God and against Moses. As a result, the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people. People were being bitten and those that were being bitten were dying.

The people came to Moses and confessed their sin and they asked Moses to pray to God for them that He would take away the serpents.

*Numbers 21:8-9*– “*8And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.*

*9And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.*”

Just as Moses put a serpent of brass on a pole that would be God's remedy from the serpent bites, so Jesus would be lifted up on a cross to be the remedy for sin and its deadly consequences!

**The remedy is simple: (Realize, Recognize, Repent)**

**A. Realize. (Realize 2 things!)**

**1. Realize You Are A Sinner!**

*Romans 3:10* – “*As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.*”

**GOSPEL OF JOHN**  
**YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!**  
**JOHN 3:1-22**

*Romans 3:23 – “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”*

**2. Realize You Cannot Save Yourself!**

*Isaiah 64:6– “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”*

Our righteousness is as filthy rags – God requires absolute perfection, and there has never been a man on this earth, other than the Lord Jesus Christ, who has ever lived a sinless perfect life.

So, God will never be satisfied with our works! In Gods eyes our good works amount to nothing at all.

**B. Recognize. (Recognize 2 things!)**

**1. Recognize the consequences of your sin.**

*Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

*Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Revelation 20:14-15 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

**2. Recognize God’s infinite love for you!**

Jesus told Nicodemus in vs. 16:

**GOSPEL OF JOHN**  
**YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!**  
**JOHN 3:1-22**

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

*Romans 5:8–“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

*1 John 4:9-10–“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*

*10Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*

Jesus satisfied the demands of a Holy and Righteous God for our sin! *Realize...Recognize...*

**C. Repent! (Repent and believe on what Jesus did for you!)**

Look at how Jesus describes this in **John 3:16-18**.

What Jesus was saying is that every person needs to:

- Believe on the finished work of Jesus Christ for salvation and nothing else!
- Totally rely upon (trust on or believe on) the payment that Jesus made at Calvary nearly 2000 years ago!
- Turn to Jesus Christ alone to be saved from sin!

**Conclusion**

**Romans 10:8-10.**

*John 1:12–“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”*

**John 3:16**

*John 3:36–“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”*

*John 6:47–“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” **Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again!***