



**PEEPLS VALLEY
BAPTIST CHURCH**
Together we are becoming!
One Spirit



**THE MARK OF SALVATION
SERMON SERIES: THE CROSS MARKS THE SPOT_01
FEBRUARY 16, 2020 / 21 SHEVAT 5780 SUNDAY AM**

JOHN 3:1-15 KJV

1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: **2** The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

1. Nicodemus approached Jesus (v.1-2).

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

2. The new birth: a necessity, an imperative (v.3).

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? **5** Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. **8** The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

3. The new birth: a spiritual birth (v.4-8).

9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, how can these things be? **10** Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? **11** Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and **ye receive not our witness.**

4. The new birth: a true experience (v.9-11).

12 If I have told you earthly things, and **ye believe not**, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

5. The new birth: rejected (v.11-12).

13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, *even* the Son of man which is in heaven.

6. The new birth: revealed only by Jesus (v.13).

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: **15** That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

7. The new birth: secured by two acts (v.14-15).

INTRODUCTION

You can line up every religious leader, prophet, teacher, and figure in history and they all have to stand totally apart from Jesus. He is literally one of a kind!

Jesus is the only one who claimed to have been born of a virgin. He is the only one who claimed to be the Son of God and in fact, God himself. He is the only one who claimed to have lived a perfect life. He is the only one who claimed to have died for the sins of the entire world. He is the only one who has ever come back from the dead.

When you read about the life of Jesus, He came to earth for one purpose - to make disciples. When He left planet earth, He gave the church one job - to make disciples. Now, in the 1st century the word "disciple" didn't mean what we take it to mean today. It didn't refer to a pupil in a school who learned certain truths or certain principles. It really meant an apprentice. A disciple was someone who didn't just learn principles, or ideas, or even a philosophy. A disciple was someone who learned a way of life. A disciple was a follower, not just of a set of teachings, but

of the teacher himself and the way the teacher lived.

Every person on this planet was born for two reasons -

- 1) **to become a disciple of Jesus**
- 2) **to become a disciple maker for Jesus**

In those purposes are the mission of our church. We exist to fulfill the mission of making disciples out of non-disciples and making disciple makers out of disciples. It is reflected in our mission statement which is – **“Sharing God’s Love One Family at a Time.”** Sharing God’s Love is evangelism. To invite non-followers of Jesus to become followers and to inspire them to live that is discipleship. To inspire people who decide to follow Jesus to truly follow Jesus and become real disciples.

"What is the Cross Marks the Spot about?" It is about life of a true disciple who is following Jesus. Why do we call it **“The Cross Marks the Spot”**? Because, without question the shadow of the cross looms over the entire New Testament. The cross dominates the New Testament. When you read the biography of Jesus one-third of those biographies talk about His death and His crucifixion.

Jesus should be the passion of our life, because of the cross. If Jesus had such passion for us that He was willing to die on the cross, we should have such passion for Him that we are willing to live under the cross as one of His disciples.

THE MARKS OF SALVATION

I. THE _____ MUST OF THE NEW BIRTH v. 1-7

A. Nicodemus approached Jesus (v.1-2).

B. The new birth: a necessity, an imperative (v.3).

1. The strong assertion.
2. The importance of the words.

II. THE _____ OF THE NEW BIRTH v. 4-8

A. The new birth: a spiritual birth (v.4-8).

III. THE _____ OF THE NEW BIRTH v. 9-15

A. The new birth: a true experience (v.9-11).

B. The new birth: rejected (v.11-12).

1. There are the statements: "ye receive not our witness" and "ye believe not." He did what so many do: he rejected Jesus.
2. It is man's nature not to believe.

C. The new birth: revealed only by Jesus (v.13).

D. The new birth: secured by two acts (v.14-15).

1. The first act is Jesus' death
2. The second act is man's belief in Jesus.

Conclusion

No doubt Nicodemus what Jesus said when confronted at the Temple. What he saw and what he heard created a hunger within his soul to know more about Jesus. So, he came and he heard the Gospel. Did Nicodemus ever get saved? I think he did! Why? Nicodemus stood up for Jesus before the Sanhedrin, **John 7:45-53** And, Nicodemus helped Joseph of Arimathea bury the body of Jesus after the crucifixion, **John 19:38-42**. Nicodemus put his wallet and his wellbeing on the line for Jesus. That is the kind of thing a saved man does: he hears fruit! As we close today, I want to draw your attention back to **John 2:24-25** for just a moment. Before Nicodemus ever came to Jesus, Jesus knew what was in the heart of Nicodemus! Jesus knew what he needed when he came that night. Jesus cut through all the **religious** nonsense and all the foolishness and Jesus told Nicodemus exactly what he needed to hear! He told him how to be saved.