

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN
(How must I be changed?)

John 3:1-15

Key verse 3

“In reply Jesus declared, ‘I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.’”

This passage covers the kind of change Jesus wants to bring to our lives.

1. Read verse 1. Who was Nicodemus and in what sense was he a successful man? Read verse 2. Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus, and why did he come at night? (Ecc 1:18; 5:10) What did he believe about Jesus? What was the basis of his belief?
 - Verse 1. He was a successful man in most every way: socially, religiously, wealth, time, wisdom, etc... Although he had all these things, he still came to Jesus even though he had everything.
 - These things were not enough. The change Jesus wants to bring about is not material or relational with this world. Knowledge doesn't satisfy (Ecc 1:18), nor does wealth (Ecc 5:10).
 - Jesus came from God.
 - The miracles.
2. Read verse 3. According to Jesus' answer, what did Nicodemus need? To Jesus, is faith based on miracles enough? (2:23-24) How did Jesus know all this about Nicodemus? (3; 2:25) what was his real problem? What does Nicodemus' answer reveal about his inner life and way of thinking? (4)
 - Verse 3. To see the kingdom of God. This is the truth, and Jesus tells him this based on God's truth. To do so, he must start over, be changed in a new way. Take this to the next level. He needed HOPE. All his hopes were fulfilled, and not happy. 1 Peter 1:3,4. He needed hope in the kingdom God.
 - No, he knows what people are like on the inside, and doesn't trust them (2:23-24). Disciples were different, they had put their faith in Jesus (2:11). Faith based on miracles or blessings is not enough to Jesus to have the new life. We need to have faith based on a relationship with him and his word.
 - Jesus knows Nicodemus, and what he needs, because he sees what is inside person (2:25).
 - The real problem is that he needs to see the kingdom of God, to know God and to be born again. HOPE. Solution: Living hope in the kingdom of God (1Pe 1:3).
 - He rejected Jesus' teaching, because he didn't want to start over. He responds sarcastically, lacks humility, and doesn't want to talk about spiritual and personal things. People tend to talk about human things only.
3. Look at Jesus' explanation of the new birth (5-8). What does it mean to be born again? (6; 1Co 2:14; Jn 1:12-13) What does this reveal about the nature of the kingdom of God? What are the evidences of being born again?
 - Verses 5-6. To be born of water and the Spirit. Receive the Holy Spirit, and be born again. 1 Corinthians 2:14 explains that spiritual things cannot be understood without the Spirit of God. Jesus is the one who can produce spiritual children of God (Jn 1:12-13). Newly adopted children.
 - Spiritual kingdom, not a physical and worldly thing. Only can be seen and entered by being spiritually born again.
 - Verses 7-8. These are the evidences. Galatians 5:22. Without the Spirit, we are objects of wrath (Eph 2:3).
4. Read verses 9-13. Why is Jesus uniquely qualified to tell about heavenly things? How should Nicodemus respond to Jesus' words?

- Verses 9-13. Eye-witness.
 - Trust in him and believe his testimony and accept them as truth.
5. Read verses 14-15 and Numbers 21:4-9. What does this story teach about faith? What is the connection between Jesus and the bronze snake? What do you learn from this conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus about the kind of change Jesus wants to bring, and how to receive it?
- Verses 14-15.