

To See the Kingdom of God

John 3:1-15

Key Verse: 3:3

“Jesus replied, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.’”

1. Who was Nicodemus? (1,4,10) How was he different from other Pharisees? (Compare 7:50-51; 19:39-40 with 7:32,47,48; 8:3,13; 9:13,15,16,40; 10:1,6; 11:57; 12:42; 18:3) What did he admit about Jesus? (2) Why do you think he came to Jesus at night?

2. Read verse 3. According to Jesus’ words, what did Nicodemus desperately need? In John’s gospel, how is “the kingdom of God” different from what most Jews had assumed? (6:14-15; 12:15; 18:36-37; 19:20) How can we see the kingdom of God?

3. How did Nicodemus misunderstand being born again? (4) What does Jesus explain about the nature of being born again? (5; 1:13; Eze 36:25-27) Who brings about the new birth? (6) What does Jesus’ analogy teach us about the work of the Holy Spirit in this? (7-8)

4. What does Nicodemus’ response reveal about his understanding of Jesus’ words? (9) Why did Jesus rebuke Nicodemus? (10-12) How is Jesus uniquely qualified to teach about these things? (13) What does Jesus’ use of “we” and “you” (which is plural) imply?

5. What historical event was Jesus referring to, and what does it teach us about faith? (14a; Num 21:4-9) How does Jesus apply this to himself? (14b) Why was Jesus lifted up? (15) In light of today’s study, how can we see and enter the kingdom of God?