

NICODEMUS

AND THE NEW BIRTH



*“Nicodemus...came to Jesus **by night**”* (John 3.1-2 KJV). Why “by night”? Was he too busy during the day? Did he not want to be seen with Christ? Maybe he couldn’t wait till morning! Whatever the case, the important thing is that he came. Friend, don’t postpone coming to Christ. He said: *“Whoever comes to me, I will never cast out”* (John 6.37 ESV).

Eternity

*“No one can see the **kingdom of God** unless they are born again”* (John 3.3 NIV). “Kingdom of God”, among other things, refers to eternity. Without being a son, you can’t be a citizen. The future with God is for the family of God. If Nicodemus had died, he wouldn’t have gone to Heaven because he was not yet born again. According to this verse, where would you go if you died today?

Necessity

*“Do not be amazed that I told you that you **must** be born again”* (John 3.7 CSB). In verse 3, the new birth was the requirement for Heaven. In verse 7, it is the remedy for the flesh. *“Flesh gives birth to flesh”* (v. 6 NIV), and thus physical life, and sadly, a sinful nature. It is so bad it can’t be fixed! God solves the issue: *“the Spirit gives birth to spirit”* (v. 6 NIV). In a given moment, the Spirit gives you spiritual life, and a new nature. It’s

not a repair, but a replacement. When this happens, the Spirit of God within you will give you power over sin.

Guilty

*“Are you the teacher of Israel, and **do not know** these things?”* (John 3.10 KJV). Christ now confronts Nicodemus with his serious sin and failure. Nicodemus, though perhaps feeling guilty, didn’t become defensive at this accusation. He was humble, honest and willing to face his sin. Are you? Christ accused him of not knowing, not receiving, and not believing! (vv 10-12). He and his colleagues, also leaders, were ignorant, closed-minded, and unbelievers. It was dangerous for *“if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into the ditch”* (Matthew 15.14 NIV).

Irony

Ironically, for you to receive eternal life, or the new birth, someone must die for your sins. Death produces life. So, Christ tells Nicodemus, *“the Son of Man must be **lifted up** (die)”* (John 3.14 CSB). Your sins are so serious, they caused the death of Christ.

Responsibility

But, just because Christ died for you, doesn’t mean you’re automatically born again. To be born again, you must look

by faith to Christ. One time, many Israelites were bitten by poisonous snakes, and were dying in droves. God gave instructions. The moment anyone looked at a bronze snake that was lifted up on a pole, instantaneously lived. You are bitten, dying in your sins, on the road to Hell, which you deserve. But what does God ask of you? He doesn't ask you to confess your sins, say a prayer, make a commitment, ask Him to forgive your sins, give your life to Jesus, get baptized, join a church, or become a better person. It's not what you do, but what Christ did. Carefully read these words again and again: *"As Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man (Christ) must be lifted up (die), that everyone who believes may have eternal life (right now!) in him"* (John 3.14-15 NIV). What is God telling you?

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have (not feel!) eternal life" (John 3.16 ESV). That's how you are born again, in a moment of time! (You can read the whole story in John 3.1-16).

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