

Mrk13 – Be Born Again – John 3:1-17

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We spent our last 2 messages on one subject  
**CHECK YOUR HEART**

& we tried to make it clear (*in 2 msg's*)

that us checking our heart toward God and His Word  
is an Eternal Life & Death Matter

& maybe you've said at some point of that study

*“Okay Dave, I’ve checked my heart  
& my heart MIGHT NOT be in a place where  
I can really receive God’s Word . . . What do I do about it?”*

*What’s the first step to MAKE my heart able  
to Receive the Life Transforming Truth of God’s Word?*

The answer is . . . **BE BORN AGAIN**

& **THAT’S Exactly** what we’re going to look at today

**Let’s Pray**

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Today, we are going to meet - **Nicodemus**

& **Nicodemus** - was a **Pharisee**  
In fact – He was a **LEADER** of the **Pharisees**

He was a **SCHOLAR** of the **JEWISH LAW**

He was a **JUDGE** on the **SANHEDRIN** (*Supreme Court of Jews*)

& **He held** one of the **Highest Positions**

In the **Jewish Religious System**

***BUT . . . there was SOMETHING about Jesus***

***That made Nicodemus RISK Everything - to seek Jesus Out***

& **So - - - Under the COVER of Darkness**

This **LEADER of the Jews - SET OUT** – to **FIND Jesus**

**1 Chronicles 28:9 says (NLT)**

***9 . . . For the Lord sees every heart and knows every plan and thought. If you seek him, you will find him . . .***

**Nicodemus went SEEKING Jesus . . . & he FOUND Him**

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**John 3:1–2 (NLT)**

***1 There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee.***

***2 After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.”***

So - **Nicodemus begins his Clandestine Conversation with Jesus**

By **ACKNOWLEDGING the obvious**

***(v.2) Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you***

**It seems like Nicodemus kinda wants to "Set the Tone"  
of the Conversation**

**But Jesus won't allow 'Religious Philosophy' talk**

Because **Jesus knows**  
**exactly what Nicodemus NEEDS to HEAR**

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**Nicodemus DOESN'T EVEN know what he needs to hear -  
But he's about to find out**

**Because Jesus - had just ONE THING to say  
to Nicodemus that night**

& **Jesus** - has just **ONE THING** to say - - **to US today**

**John 3:3 (NLT)**

***3 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."***

**Instead of entering some DEEP  
Religious Conversation with Nicodemus**

**Jesus just HITS Nicodemus  
with a SPIRITUAL BOMBSHELL**

***(v.3) unless you are born again  
you cannot see the Kingdom of God***

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The problem was - Nicodemus' LIFE - was consumed with  
Strong Religious EFFORT  
& Sincere Religious WORK

& he was sure – all that Religious Effort & Work  
was going to earn him a place in the Kingdom of God

BUT Jesus wants Nicodemus to know  
& - Jesus wants US to know

that NO AMOUNT of Religious Effort  
is EVER going to get ANYONE into Heaven

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& maybe it's because this is SUCH an Important truth

That Jesus STARTS the conversation  
with this Earth-Shaking Statement

*(v.3) unless you are born again*  
*you cannot see the Kingdom of God*

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& Suddenly – Nicodemus' head is Spinning

Jesus just THREW

ALL of Nicodemus' Religious Effort  
and all his Good Guy Points – Right out the WINDOW

& it SEEMS like - This statement from Jesus  
SHAKES Nicodemus – SO BADLY

that it kinda SHORT-CIRCUITS his brain -  
& maybe a little SMOKE comes out his ears

Because – at this point  
Nicodemus says something – Extremely Ridiculous

John 3:4 (NLT)

*4 “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?”*

Seriously Nicodemus – THAT is what you come up with?

This ‘Teacher of the Jewish Religion’  
is trying NOT to Lose it, completely

He’s been telling people his Whole Life  
HOW to EARN Favor w/ God - BY their Religious Effort & Work

& Now Jesus Gives him ONE  
& ONLY ONE – Requirement

*unless you are born again*  
*you cannot see the Kingdom of God*

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& Nicodemus WANTS to understand

But This is SUCH a FOREIGN CONCEPT  
to everything he's been taught

& so Jesus addresses the crazy  
“go back into your mother's womb” statement – from V4

### John 3:5 (NLT)

*5 Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.”*

& people talk about WHAT Jesus means here

BUT – Jesus actually makes it perfectly clear in the next Vs

### John 3:6 (NLT)

*6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.*

So - Jesus says - NO Nicodemus,  
You cannot go back into your mother's womb

because THAT is being “Born of the flesh”  
(as other translations call it)

Humans can reproduce only human life,  
(you don't need any more of that)

but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life  
(& THAT is what you need to enter the Kingdom of God)

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## & HERE'S WHY

**Because** your Human Birth

Comes Permanently INFECTED with the SIN NATURE

**THAT** is WHY – your 'Human Birth' (being Born of the Flesh)

CANNOT be "Cleaned Up" & Made Acceptable to God

**Because** NO SIN can be in the presence of God

& you were Born with SIN

ENGRAINED in your Human Nature!

& so - You MUST - Be Born Again

You Must be Born of the Spirit

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Jesus is talking about a Spiritual RE-BIRTH

A Re-Birth that Comes from GOD ALONE

John 1:12–13 says (NLT)

*12 But to all who believed him and accepted (received) him, he gave the right to become children of God.*

*13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.*

**This** is the Supernatural Re-Birth – that comes from God

THIS Is being BORN-AGAIN

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& then – I can imagine - Jesus & Nicodemus  
sitting on the flat roof of a home in Jerusalem (a common place)

& maybe a cool breeze blew across  
the two of them as they were sitting & talking

& so – Jesus USES the WIND - as a perfect Illustration

### John 3:7–8 (NLT)

*7 So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.'*

*8 The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit.*

Jesus says UNDERSTANDING being Born Again  
Is like UNDERSTANDING the Wind

You may not understand  
where the Wind COMES FROM – or Where it GOES

BUT – you CAN understand – the Effects of the Wind

*So it is with everyone who is Born of the Spirit – (Born Again)*

You may Not Understand Exactly HOW  
Being BORN AGAIN - Works

But you CAN Certainly Understand  
the EFFECTS of Being Born Again

**But . . . Nicodemus – (this respected  
Teacher of Religious Law) – is still . . . BAFFLED**

**John 3:9 (NLT)**

**9 “How are these things possible?” Nicodemus asked.**

***Nic, my friend . . . you are just NOT Getting this***

**& so - In response to this statement (v.9)**

**Jesus Kinda Sets Nicodemus - Straight - (gets a little hard on him)**

**Because this is NOT a NEW Concept**

**God had Been Preparing His people**

**for a Spiritual RE-BIRTH that comes THRU FAITH ALONE**

**Since God called Abraham in Gen Ch 12**

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**& so – after Jesus challenges Nicodemus a bit – in Vs’s 10-12**

**Starting in Vs 13 – Jesus REMINDS Nicodemus  
of the incredible picture of Salvation**

**that God gave to the Israelites - 1500 yrs earlier**

**when they were Wandering around in the Wilderness**

**John 3:13–15 (NLT)**

**13 No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven.**

**14 And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,  
15 so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.**

**Jesus is taking Nicodemus BACK – 1500 years  
to explain to him – that this has ALWAYS been**

**God's Plan of Salvation**

for all those - who have been BITTEN with the Sin Nature

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So Write in your Margin – **NUMBERS 21:4-9**

**Israel was in their 40 years of Wandering in the Wilderness  
(which was brought on by their Lack of Faith in God)**

& they were Grumbling - Criticizing - & Complaining  
**AGAINST Both God - & Moses – which God considered SIN**

& so God decided to “Motivate Them” to Repent of their Sin

In **NUM 21:6** – it says: *the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people, and many were bitten and died*

**Now – since The Garden of Eden  
the SERPENT has always been a SYMBOL of SIN**

& so – The poisonous snakes represent SIN  
& those who were “BITTEN” by SIN – were Dying from it

& You & I – Today – have been BITTEN by our SIN NATURE  
& we are Dying from it

Then - in **NUM 21:8** The **LORD** tells Moses

***“Make a replica of a poisonous snake (a replica of sin)  
and attach it to a pole.***

***& All who are bitten will live  
if they simply look at it!” (or, look TO it)***

**& so – Moses makes A REPLICA of the Symbol of SIN  
& Lifts it up high on a pole**

**& anyone who would LOOK TO that Replica of Sin  
raised up on the pole – would be Saved**

<b><u>That</u> is a <u>RADICAL ILLUSTRATION</u> – of <u>God’s Plan</u> of <u>Salvation</u> – <u>1500 years</u> before <u>Jesus Christ</u> came to <u>this earth</u></b>
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**Jesus is Reminding Nicodemus  
this has been God’s Plan - all along**

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**Just as Moses Lifted up the REPLICA of SIN  
& ALL those who Looked to it were Saved**

**So Jesus – was LIFTED UP on the Cross  
To pay the full penalty for our sin**

**& now - ALL who look to Jesus in Faith  
WILL be Saved - - - *Will be BORN AGAIN!***

**THAT is Exactly What Jesus  
is saying to Nicodemus - in Vs 14-15**

**(Again) - John 3:14–15 (NLT)**

***14 And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,  
15 so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.***

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**& Finally – Nicodemus is READY to HEAR – The HOW -  
HOW can I be BORN AGAIN?**

**& what comes next – in John Ch 3 is  
The Most Famous Verse in The Bible**

**John 3:16 (NLT)**

***16 For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.***

**The God who created ALL that has been created  
LOVED the World – *In this way . . .***

**His love for EACH one of us - is SO Radical**

**That God came HIMSELF – in the Person of Jesus Christ**

**TO PAY (in our place) the Full Penalty -  
that Our Sin Justly DESERVES**

**So that we could be BORN AGAIN**

**So that we could - be freely given NEW LIFE**

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**BY us putting our Full Faith & Trust  
IN Jesus Christ as our Savior**

**We are BORN-AGAIN -  
we are MADE RIGHT with God**

**NOT because we've EARNED it  
NOT because we DESERVE it**

**But Simply because we put our Faith & Trust  
In Jesus Christ – as our Savior**

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**(Again) John 3:16 (NLT)**

**16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish . . .**

**so that EVERYONE who believes**

**The word translated “EVERYONE” means  
Each – Every – Any – or ALL**

**It Genuinely & Literally means – WHO-SO-EVER**

**NO MATTER - Who you ARE  
Where you've BEEN  
What you've DONE**

**God says** – If you will **Truly BELIEVE (Put Your Faith)**  
in **Jesus Christ** as Your **Savior** – **you will not perish**

**& The Word 'BELIEVE'** - is **where** the **LINE is DRAWN**

**The Line is DRAWN at what it means – TO BELIEVE**

**Does it Mean** - To **Believe** that **God EXISTS** - - - **NO, it doesn't**

This word **BELIEVE Means**

to **Put** your **FULL FAITH & TRUST**  
**in the person of Jesus Christ** – **AS your Savior**

**To put your Full Faith & Trust**

In **WHO** Jesus Christ **says He IS**

In **WHAT** Jesus Christ **says He HAS DONE**

In **WHAT** Jesus Christ **says He WILL DO**

**& IF you will DO THAT**

Then **God Promises** – that **You will NOT PERISH**

**But instead** - you **WILL HAVE** - **Eternal Life**

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**Thru** our **Genuine Faith** in **Jesus Christ**

we are **Freely** Given **ETERNAL LIFE** with **God in Heaven**

**AND** we are **Saved** from an **Eternal Separation from God**  
in a **place** the **Bible** calls – **HELL**

& Eternal Life with God is what the END of  
the Most Famous Vs in the Bible - is all about

**(again) John 3:16 (NLT)**

***16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.***

the word HAVE here – is a Present Possession word  
It means we currently HAVE Eternal Life

**When we put our FULL FAITH in Jesus as our Savior**

The work of God - Giving us Eternal Life – is FINISHED  
& we are BORN AGAIN

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& God promises us – IN His Word  
that this Eternal Life with Him is VERY, VERY REAL

It is MORE REAL – than this Temporal Life on Earth

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& It all happens – by you putting your Full FAITH & TRUST  
In Jesus Christ - as your Savior

**Fully believing – WHO he IS  
& WHAT He's DONE**

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**God has DONE IT ALL - for you  
Except ONE THING**

**You must BELIEVE in Jesus Christ**

**You Must put your Full FAITH & TRUST  
in Jesus Christ – AS your Savior**

**& God promises You – in His Word**

That **When You DO THAT**  
You **WILL be BORN AGAIN**

**& - When you ARE Born Again**

Your **Heart will be READY to Receive**  
the **Life-Transforming Truth of God's Word**

**Let's Pray**

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if you just prayed that prayer – if you just sincerely put your Faith & Trust in Jesus Christ – for your eternal salvation

Then, right now, God has done his part  
He has caused you to be BORN AGAIN – Congratulations

& so now – Spiritually, you are a BABY

just like you were once a physical Baby  
you are now a Spiritual Baby

& just as you needed CARE when you were a Physical Baby  
you now need Spiritual care, as a Spiritual Baby

& just as a Physical Baby can DIE  
if it doesn't receive the care it needs

so your Spiritual Life can DIE  
if you don't receive the Spiritual Care you need

We'd like to help make sure you get that care  
We'd like to talk with you about the decision you just made

We'd like to get you connected to a Discipleship Group

where you can GET the care you need  
to get grounded in God's Word

& to form relationships that God can use  
to CARRY you thru your Spiritual Growth