

LESSON 2 (26/27, 2021)

M: Messiah Part 1



Discussion Questions

Beginning of Ministry & Nicodemus

Read Matthew 4:12–22.

1. Jesus leaves Judea and returns to Galilee when he hears about John the Baptist's arrest. Why do you think Jesus leaves rather than "storm the prison" to free John?
2. Matthew quotes Isaiah 9:1–2, saying that in his move to Capernaum he was fulfilling this prophecy about the coming of the great light to those dwelling in darkness. Why is it important that Jesus first movements in His ministry is towards Gentile peoples and not just Israel?
3. How does the description of Jesus's preaching in Matt 4:17 remind you of John the Baptist's message? What additional reason does Jesus give in his call for repentance?
4. How do the pair of brothers, Simon Peter and Andrew along with James and John respond to Jesus's call to follow him? How does their response compare with your response to follow Jesus' call on your life?
5. What holds us back from following the call of Jesus wholeheartedly? As Simon Peter and Andrew left their nets and James and John their boat and father, what might God be asking you to leave behind as you follow Him?

Read John 3:1–15

6. Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the ruling class. Why did he come to see Jesus at night? What was he risking by meeting with Jesus?
7. Nicodemus opens his conversation with Jesus with the statement that some of the Pharisees know ("we know") that Jesus is come from God because of the signs he does. Why does Jesus' avoid that comment and rather introduce being born again in order to see the kingdom of God?



8. Compare Jesus's approach to the highly-learned and respected Nicodemus with the four fishermen Jesus had just called from their boats to be his disciples. What can we learn about Jesus' heart based on how He interacts with different types of people?
9. Why was Nicodemus shocked when Jesus said that no one could see or enter the kingdom of God unless they were born again?
10. What are statements or claims made by Jesus that are shocking to you? How do you respond when you encounter something in the Christian faith that you don't understand?
11. Jesus creates an analogy between the wind and the actions of the Holy Spirit. How do Jesus's words help us to understand the mystery of the Spirit's actions in bringing about faith?
12. How have you seen God move in mysterious or unexpected ways in your life or in the lives of others?
13. Nicodemus knew the Hebrew Scriptures better than we ever will. Why is "head knowledge" apart from the work of the Holy Spirit insufficient to reconcile us with the Father?
14. Jesus compares Himself to the bronze snake that Moses had lifted up in the wilderness for healing of those who had sinned against the LORD by doubting His goodness. What is Jesus referring to by being "lifted up?" Read Numbers 21:5-9 and Isaiah 52:13-53:12.
15. Ultimately, new birth is a supernatural work of God in the life of a person that leads to eternal life. How is this hopeful, good news?