



#1, Jesus & Nicodemus

John 3:1-21, Ezekiel 36:25-27

Today we're starting a new series. It's a 6-week series called, **ONE!** It's a teaching series built around the times where we see Jesus talking with just **ONE** person. Even with the massive reach of Jesus' ministry, the gospels reveal over 40 interactions that He had with just **ONE** person. Jesus came, by his own admission, to seek and to save the lost person. *It's going to be a great series... Let's get started!*

John 3:1-3

- **Nicodemus was a man of high authority in the religious community.**
 - He was a member of the Sanhedrin and therefore, an influential leader in the community.
 - Because of his position of influence and authority, He came to Jesus at night.
- **Isn't it true that all of us approach Jesus under the cover of darkness – our own darkness!**
 - Don't be ashamed to come to Jesus with whatever is happening in your life!
 - Nicodemus is clearly rocked back on his heels by Jesus' response because it brutally exposed his spiritual need!!

John 3:4

- **I love how Jesus uses an uncommon phrase to throw Nicodemus out of his religious rhythm.**
 - Nicodemus is probably thinking:
 - **I can learn more, I can memorize more and, I can follow more rules**
 - But be born, AGAIN?

We cannot SEE the Kingdom of God! (Unless BORN AGAIN)

We cannot ENTER the Kingdom of God (Unless BORN OF WATER & the SPIRIT!)

John 3:5-13

- **Jesus takes Nicodemus to an OT passage that He would have understood about water and spirit.**

Ezekiel 36:25

25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

#1. *The act of becoming born again involves the washing of our hearts from all uncleanness!*

#2. *The act of becoming born again involves being given a new heart – a heart that lives again.*

#3. *The act of becoming born again involves the infilling of the Spirit to walk in his ways!*

Jesus doesn't come into your life to inform you about what you've done wrong!

But rather, to transform you into the person that you're called to be!

- **God puts a living Spirit in us, which shapes and gives character to our new hearts!**
 - God takes out the heart of stone and puts in a heart of flesh.
 - It means having a soft, living and responsive heart instead of a lifeless brick for a heart!

John 3:14-15

- **But, not everyone, though bitten and filled with poison, wanted to look at the bronze serpent to experience life and healing!** (Numbers 21:1-9)
 - In the same way, only those that look and believe in the lifted cross of Christ will have eternal life!
 - *He had to take on Himself the sting of death.*
 - *He had to take on Himself the poison of sin on the cross.*

John 3:16-20

- **Jesus didn't come to make your life horrible and miserable!**
 - He came to change your life and set you free... Jesus came into the world to save people!
 - Just as the Israelites could look to the uplifted bronze serpent and be saved, we can look to Jesus!

What do we learn from this conversation with Nicodemus?

1.) We can come to Jesus in our darkness!

- We don't have to clean up, get all fixed up... Come as you are!
 - Whatever your issue... whatever your pain... Come to Jesus...

2.) It is the person of Christ and not our position in life that brings us peace!

- Nothing in this life will bring lasting peace!
 - Your position cannot bring you peace!

3.) You are really born again when you truly believe!

- 7x he uses the word, **BELIEVE!**
 - **Salvation is received through belief**

John 3:21

But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God!

There is a LIGHT that SHINES in the Darkness... HIS NAME IS JESUS!

RECEIVE CHRIST!