

GOD the SON

“A Brand New Life” John 3:1-8

Pastor Jason Dennett’s Teaching Notes

NKJV- *“There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*

“If we were asked to read to a dying man who did not know the gospel, we should probably select this chapter as the most suitable one for such an occasion; and what is good for dying men is good for us all, for that is what we are; and how soon we may be actually at the gates of death, none of us can tell.” - Spurgeon

I. A Piqued **CURIOSITY**_(v. 1-2)

II. A Personal **NECESSITY**_(v. 3-6)

III. A Practical **ACTIVITY**_(v. 7-8)

I. **A Piqued CURIOSITY**_(v. 1-2) - *“There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”*

- Who was **NICODEMUS??** - Nicodemus came to Jesus as a representative of all mankind (Jn 2:23-25).
He represents what is highest and best in all men.
 - **Nicodemus was Rich.**- 4th wealthiest family in Jerusalem.
 - **Nicodemus was Respected.**- High position in Jewish society.
 - **Nicodemus was Religious.**- Member of the Jewish Supreme Court (Sanhedrin).
 - **Nicodemus was NOT Regenerated... he was NOT Reborn...**

II. **A Personal NECESSITY**_(v. 3-6) - *“Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”*

- To be “born again”, essentially means to have new life. A theological term for this is regeneration. It isn’t simply a moral or religious reform, but the bringing of new life.
 - *“To belong to the heavenly Kingdom, one must be born into it!” - Tenney*

- Jesus' answer shattered the Jewish assumption that their racial identity assured them a place in Heaven. Jesus made it plain that a man's first birth (physical) does not assure him of Heaven; only being "**born again**" by God's Spirit (spiritual birth) gives this assurance.
- Why is the **NEW BIRTH** Necessary??
 - **Mankind is Separated fr. God.**- **Isa 59:1-2**(AMP): "The Lord's hand is not shortened at all, that it cannot save, nor His ear dull with deafness, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."
 - **Mankind is At War w/ God.**- **Rom 5:10**(AMP): "...while we were **enemies** we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son.."
 - **Mankind is Dead to God.**- **Eph 2:1,5** (NLT): Once you were **dead** because of your disobedience and your many sins...even though we were **dead** because of our sins, he gave us **life**."
- Most Jews of that time looked for the Messiah to bring in a **brand new world**, in which Israel and the Jewish people would be pre-eminent. But Jesus came to bring **a brand new life**, in which He would be preeminent.

III. A Practical **ACTIVITY** (v. 7-8) - "**Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.**"

- Jesus' main idea to Nicodemus was "**You don't understand everything about the wind, but you can see its effects.** That is how it is with the birth of the Spirit." Nicodemus **didn't have to understand everything about the new birth, before he experienced it!**
- All over the New Testament this idea of rebirth & re-creation is found:
 - **1 Peter** speaks of being born again by God's great mercy. (**1Pet 1:3,22-23**)
 - **James** speaks of God bringing us forth by His Word of truth. (**Jas 1:18**)
 - **Titus** speaks to us of the washing of regeneration. (**Tit 3:5**)
 - **Romans** speaks of dying with Jesus and rising to new life. (**Rom 6:1-11**)
 - **1 Corinthians** speaks of new believers as new spiritual babes. (**1 Cor 3:1-2**)
 - **2 Corinthians** speaks of us being a new creation in Jesus. (**2 Cor 5:17**)
 - **Galatians** says that in Jesus we are a new creation. (**Gal 6:15**)
 - **Ephesians** says the we have brand new righteousness. (**Eph 4:22-24**)
 - **Hebrews** says, Christians are brand new spiritual children. (**Heb 5:12-14**)