

The Journey

Series 04: Christ

Week 35: Jesus Introduces new Birth

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We Have Been)

Key Points from Last Week...

- Jesus spoke with **authority** (His teachings)
He knew God, His Father; Jesus perfectly understood His own Word
- Jesus was **powerful in His actions**
Evidenced over the spirit realm (casting out demons) and physical realm (healings)

BIG Idea

In this lesson we will focus on a big concept... **God loves us.**

There is no other explanation for why He would send His only Son from Heaven to earth to rescue us. As His love reaches out, He draws sinners to Himself.

Information (What We Need to Know)

We'll look at God drawing us to Himself through an encounter between a man named Nicodemus and Jesus.

Who was Nicodemus?

John 3:1 (ESV) Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

- He was a Pharisee
 - ✓ Thought they were superior to other people
 - ✓ Believed that their ability to follow rules/traditions made them pleasing to God
 - ✓ Often self-righteous, believing that they were without sin
- He was curious about the true identity of Jesus

- ✓ Nicodemus knew miracles were only accomplished by the power of God

John 3:2 (ESV) 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."

"Many of them [Pharisees] hated Him, they tried to discredit Him by claiming that He performed these miracles by the power of Satan." – Firm Foundations

- ✓ Nicodemus visited Jesus at night possibly out of fear of what others might think, or he just wanted uninterrupted time with Jesus

John 3:2 (ESV) This man came to Jesus by night...

What did Jesus and Nicodemus discuss?

- Not what Nicodemus thought

John 3:2 (ESV) 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.” **2** Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

“Jesus answered a question that Nicodemus does not even ask. He read Nicodemus’s heart and came to the very core of his problem - the need for spiritual transformation.” – John MacArthur

- ✓ Most thought the Deliverer would usher in a *new world* where Israel would rule, but Jesus came to bring *new life*, in which *He* would rule and reign
- ✓ Jews thought that because they descended from Abraham, they were assured entrance into the kingdom of God

A Quick Rewind...

- Adam and Eve were created in God’s image, but chose sin
- Sin separated them from God and brought death - spiritual, physical, eternal
- All are born with Adam’s sinful image and under Satan’s rule
- We must move from the kingdom of Satan to the kingdom of God...but how?

- Entering the kingdom of God requires being **born again**

John 3:3 (ESV) “...unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

- ✓ Nicodemus didn’t understand what it meant to be born again

John 3:4 (ESV) 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 explained that a person must be born of water and the Spirit

John 3:5 (ESV) Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

“...born of water and the Spirit refers to spiritual birth, which cleanses from sin and brings spiritual transformation and renewal.” – ESV Study Bible

- Born of water – cleansing of sin
 - Born of the Spirit – the Holy Spirit’s work through the Word of God
 - ✓ There are only two “categories” of people in the world – *born once*, *born twice*
- John 3:6 (NLT)** Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.



How did Jesus further explain being born again?

John 3:9 (NLT) “How are these things possible?” Nicodemus asked.

- Jesus explained that He knew the answers because He had come from heaven
John 3:13 (ESV) No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.
- Jesus uses an Old Testament story to teach the truth about being born again
John 3:14 (ESV) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
 - ✓ Israel was punished by poisonous snakes because of their sin
 - ✓ Israel was helpless, unable to escape death brought about by the snakes
 - ✓ Israelites who had been bitten but repented had the opportunity to be saved
 - ✓ God commanded Moses to lift up a brass snake on a pole and God healed every Israelite who believed Him and looked at the brass snake

“The Israelites could not save themselves from death when bitten by the poisonous snakes, and neither can we save ourselves from the penalty of our sin. Just as God was the only One who could deliver the Israelites, He is the only One who can deliver us.” – Firm Foundations

Everyone needs to be delivered from Satan, sin, and death and to be born again into God’s family. Jesus said that there is only one way this can be accomplished.

Application (What We Need to Do)

Whoever trusts in Jesus, the Deliverer, will be born again. They will be born into God’s family and brought under His rule, and they will be given eternal life.

How can a person be born again (enter the kingdom of God)?

- The Deliverer gives eternal life to all who believe
John 3:16 (ESV) “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”
 - ✓ God loves the world
 - ✓ God proved His love for the world by sending a Deliverer
 - ✓ A sinner is delivered by believing that he is condemned by God and agreeing that only Christ can save him from sin
 - ✓ Sinners who believe are freed from the penalty of death and given eternal life
- The Deliverer came to save, not judge
John 3:17 (ESV) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.