

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning 4-28-24
Christianity 102 – Message 35
“You must be Born Again.”

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) At salvation you were transformed from clay to salt.
 - a) Salt preserves, purifies and it brings out flavor.
- 2) Jesus taught with authority, but the scribes did not.
- 3) Jesus silenced the demons from telling everyone who He was.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) We get to see a unique conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus.
- 2) Who is Nicodemus?
 - a) A natural man who is teaching spiritual truths to the Jews.
 - b) Something is up in Nicodemus' heart.
 - c) It seems that Nicodemus was coming under conviction.

2. Nicodemus seeks out Jesus. John 3:1-2

a. What was it that caught his attention about Jesus?

- 1) He recognized that Jesus was a teacher from God and came to that from –
 - a) The Pharisees tried to discredit Jesus' miracles saying –
- 2) Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night?
- 3) It is also possible that his coming to Jesus was a part of the work of the Law.
 - a) Psalm 24:3-4

3. Jesus reveals the truth Nicodemus had missed. John 3:3

a. Nicodemus, listen close.

- 1) Jesus said – “I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
 - a) There is no exception clause concerning salvation.
- 2) No one is above being asked this question.
- 3) How important is this decision?
 - a) If you are not **“born again”** you cannot **“see”** the kingdom of God.
- 4) Application – why wasn't Jesus silent here?

4. How did He miss it? John 3:4

a. The truth of being “born again”. John 3:4-8

- 1) Verse 4 – Was this truth of being “born again” a foreign concept to him?
- 2) Consider Nicodemus' background.

b. God created Adam and Eve in His own image:

- 1) They were created to have fellowship with God.
- 2) What does it mean that God created them in **“His own image.”**
 - a) God gave them a mind, emotions and a will.
- 3) The image of God in Adam and Eve was marred because of their disobedience.
- 4) After Adam and Eve sinned:
 - a) Their thinking was changed towards God.
 - b) Their emotional responses to God were different.
 - c) Their wills were affected so they no longer chose to do what God wanted.

c. God's image is marred in everyone.

- 1) Every person has been born in the image of Adam in whom God's image was marred.

- 2) BUT – the possibility is presented that a person can be born again.
- 3) A sobering truth we already know but need to make known.
- 5. Jesus said you must be born of water and the Spirit. John 3:5
 - a. Water –
 - 1) There is the physical birth –
 - 2) The water that Jesus was referring to is a picture of the power of God's Word.
 - a) I Peter 1:23-25 - **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: 25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”**
 - 3) Spirit –
 - a) “That which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”
 - b) This speaks of the change that takes place when someone is born again.
- 6. Who do you belong to? John 3:6-9
 - a. God states that there are only two categories of people in the world.
 - 1) Those who have been born once and those who have been born again.
 - b. Verse 8 – Nicodemus – do you feel that? The wind?
 - c. Verse 9 – What Jesus taught was something Nicodemus had never heard before.
- 7. Today's Take Away:
 - a. Jesus will be lifted up for your healing. John 3:14-15
 - 1) Nicodemus knew about this event – the brazen serpent on the pole.
 - 2) Do you know about the CROSS? - Jesus was lifted up on the cross.