

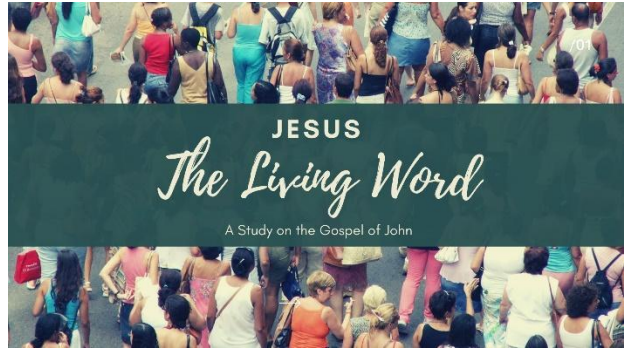
Study: "Jesus the Living Word"

A Study on the Gospel of John

Instructor: Pastor Damian Mericka

Week 9: Gospel of John 3:1-21

Study Notes Jesus- *the Word of God*



**John 2:23-25. Surface Level Belief**

- o While the miraculous brought excitement to people, Jesus did not entrust Himself to this surface level faith. In other words, many were drawing closer to Jesus for what He was doing, starting to believe that He may be the Messiah. However, John's Gospel will show that faith which does not break the surface of our hearts and penetrate the soul will never know the eternal life found through repentance.
- o Nicodemus would be an illustration of a Faith that starts to sink below the surface level into the heart.

**John 3:1-8. The Heart of the Issue**

- o Jesus wastes no time getting to the heart of the Issue with Nicodemus, passing beyond the surface level flattery. It is a Kingdom issue; is Israel a part of the Kingdom of God or not?
- o *Born again* literally means *born from above*.
- o Born of water and the Spirit-> **Ezekiel 36:24-27**
- o The Spirit compared to wind- It cannot be controlled or understood, however it's presence and work are undeniably evident.

**John 3:11-21. Belief that Penetrates into the Heart**

- o Vv.11-12 The **Problem** of unbelief.
  - Nicodemus' lack of understanding has more to do with not embracing Jesus' testimony than simply ignorance. Rejecting Jesus results in ignorance of the Word.
- o Vv.13-17 The **Answer** to unbelief.
  - **Numbers 12:5-9 / 21:4-9**
  - Eternal Life (17 x Gospel of John / nearly 50 x NT) is a term not limited to the quantity, but also the quality of life.
    - **Romans 8:18-25**
- o Vv.18-21 The **Results** of unbelief.
  - Saving Faith is belief that continues in Jesus.

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." -John 20:31 ESV

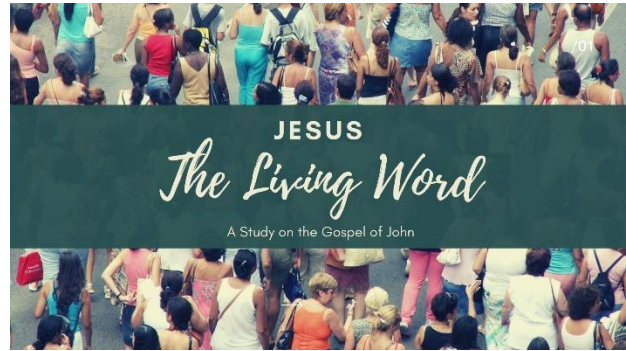
Cornerstone Bible Study Series

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### Deeper Questions for Application

- 1) *Why didn't Jesus commit Himself to anyone in **John 2:23-25**? Why didn't He need anyone to prove what was the heart issue with humanity?*
  
- 2) *What is surface level faith / belief? Why is this dangerous if this is all that we have in Jesus?*
  
- 3) *How did Jesus' response to Nicodemus get straight to the heart of the issue? What did Jesus mean by **born again**? By born of both **water and spirit**? Hint: See **Ezekiel 36:24-27***
  
- 4) *What is the answer to unbelief? How does Jesus compare to Moses in **Numbers 12:5-9**? How does Jesus compare to the bronze serpent in **Numbers 21:4-9**?*
  
- 5) **BONUS:**
  - a. *Eternal Life is both the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of life in Jesus.*
  - b. *How does **Romans 8:18-25** map out faith that breaks through the surface level of our hearts and penetrates into our souls resulting in a lifelong journey in Christ? What area(s) is God working to break beyond the surface level in your heart?*

\*Type your answers and send them to me at [damianmericka@live.com](mailto:damianmericka@live.com) or attach through facebook messenger. **\*For Next Time read John Chapter 3:22-36.**