

John 3:1-16:

1. Background: Nicodemus a Pharisee:
 - Comes to Jesus by night. He is a Jewish pharisee meaning he is well-educated, and a part of the Jewish elite. This passage happens immediately after Jesus has driven out the merchants in the temple. He comes to Jesus at night to avoid any negative public perceptions.
2. Jesus cuts to the heart: In verse three, the word “again” is the Greek word *anōthen* (ἀνωθεν).
 - This word has a double meaning. It can be translated both literally “from above” , and “another time”.
 - Nicodemus doesn’t respond in an innocent manner. He is a Jewish Elite Teacher and leader.
 - His response can be taken as sarcastic and filled with Earthly wisdom.
3. Jesus responds with imagery from the prophets about the new birth from the Spirit.

Isaiah 44:3-4: For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. 4 They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams.

Ezekiel 36:25-27: I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, 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.

- These were passages Nicodemus would have been familiar with. Jesus is showing Nicodemus what has been lost– the Spirit of God.
4. Jesus brings up the story in Numbers 21. This is a story about the people of Israel's selfishness and rebellion.
 - How is a Bronze Serpent in the wilderness pointing forward to Jesus and the way to be “Born Again”?
 - The Cross
 5. So often we become “infected” with our own selfishness, our own pride, our own mindset. We need to look high and above, to our Savior.