

# THIS IS MY STORY

**Sermon Title:** Life Changing Conversations

**Series:** This Is My Story

**Passages:** John 3

**Preached On:** 3-17-2024

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You have a story to tell.

## **John 3:1-21 (CSB)**

<sup>1</sup>There was a man from the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

<sup>2</sup>This man came to him at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could perform these signs you do unless God were with him.”

<sup>3</sup>Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

<sup>4</sup>“How can anyone be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked him. “Can he enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born?”

<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

<sup>6</sup>Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.

<sup>7</sup>Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again.

<sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup>“How can these things be?” asked Nicodemus.

<sup>10</sup>“Are you a teacher of Israel and don’t know these things?” Jesus replied.

<sup>11</sup>“Truly I tell you, we speak what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you do not accept our testimony.

<sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

<sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven—the Son of Man.

<sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,

<sup>15</sup>so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

<sup>18</sup>Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.

<sup>19</sup>This is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.

<sup>20</sup>For everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed.

<sup>21</sup>But anyone who lives by the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God.”

Being Religious Doesn't Get You Into Heaven, Following Jesus Does

You Have A Story To Tell - Of How Jesus Gave You A New Life.

Life Changing Conversations You Can Have With Others:

- How God has answered your prayers.
- How God has helped you overcome doubts.
- How the Bible has changed your perspective.
- How God helped you forgive someone.
- What God's purpose is for your life.
- Why you attend church.
- How God has used others to minister to you.

### **Study Questions**

- In John 3, Nicodemus, a religious leader, sought out Jesus privately. What does this interaction reveal about the importance of personal faith and seeking understanding beyond mere religious practices?

- Reflecting on Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus, what are some key differences between religious adherence and genuine discipleship? How can we discern whether we're truly following Jesus or merely going through the motions of religion?
- Jesus challenges Nicodemus's understanding of spiritual rebirth. How does this conversation prompt us to examine our own assumptions about what it means to be a follower of Christ? What does it truly mean to be born again?
- Considering Nicodemus's hesitation to openly discuss his questions with Jesus, what barriers or fears might prevent people today from seeking deeper spiritual understanding or publicly acknowledging their doubts? How can we create spaces within the church for honest questioning and growth in faith?