

Christians on Campus
John Bible Study
Summer 2021
John (2)

John 3:1-36

¹But there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This one came to Him by night and said to Him, Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him. ³Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴Nicodemus said to Him, How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he? ⁵Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born anew. ⁸The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from and where it goes; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit. ⁹Nicodemus answered and said to Him, How can these things be? ¹⁰Jesus answered and said to him, You are a teacher of Israel, and you do not know these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, We speak that which we know and testify of that which we have seen, and yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I told you of the things on earth and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you of the things in heaven? ¹³And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended out of heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.

¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸He who believes into Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not believed into the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light, for their works were evil. ²⁰For everyone who practices evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his works be reproved. ²¹But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his works may be manifested that they are wrought in God.

²²After these things, Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He spent some time with them and baptized. ²³And John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and people came and were baptized; ²⁴for John had not yet been thrown into prison. ²⁵There arose therefore a questioning on the part of John's disciples with a Jew about purification. ²⁶And they came to John and said to him, Rabbi, He who was with you across the Jordan, of whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him. ²⁷John answered and said, A man cannot receive anything unless it has been given to him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves testify of me that I said, I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before Him. ²⁹He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full. ³⁰He must increase, but I *must* decrease.

³¹He who comes from above is above all; he who is from the earth is of the earth and speaks out of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³²What He has seen and heard, of this He testifies, and no one receives His testimony. ³³He who receives His testimony has sealed that God is true. ³⁴For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for He gives the Spirit not by measure. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has given all into His hand. ³⁶He who believes into the Son has eternal life; but he who disobeys the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides upon him.

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and there is no water; and our soul loathes this light bread. ⁶Then Jehovah sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, We have sinned, because we have spoken against Jehovah and against you; pray to Jehovah, that He may take away the serpents from us. So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸Then Jehovah said to Moses, Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live. ⁹And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the pole; and if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

Discussion Questions:

1. What kind of person was Nicodemus? What was his purpose in coming to Jesus?
2. How can someone be reborn again? What is necessary for this (v. 5)?
3. Read Numbers 21:4-9 which speak about Moses lifting up the bronze serpent in the wilderness (John 3:14) and fill out the table:

Verse	Content	Significance
21:6	Fiery serpents bit the people, many died	
21:8	Set the serpent on a pole	
21:9a	Bronze serpent	
21:9b	When anyone looks at the bronze serpent, he lived	

4. What does it mean for Christ to increase and us to decrease? How does this relate to the bride and bridegroom mentioned in verse 29?