

(1) Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

(3) Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

(5) Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

(9) Nicodemus said to Him, “How can these things be?”

(10) Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And, as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.”

Think on these things:

- 1) Nicodemus was a religious leader of the Jews, and here we see him as a sincere seeker of God’s truth. Is Jesus introducing to him a new idea to the Jewish understanding of God’s salvation, i.e., being “born from above” or “born again”? If yes, why was Jesus disappointed in him?

New teaching? _____ Why was Jesus disappointed? _____

- 2) Let’s look into the Jewish idea of how one gets saved. Considering Genesis 15:1, 5-6 and Isaiah 51:1-2, 16, Jews believed “what” would save them (alone)?

The Jews believed that all of them would be saved because they were: _____

- 3) What did Jesus say to the Pharisees in John 8:37-47 to refute this (erroneous) belief?

- 4) Read Romans 4:1-3, 13-14 and 20-21 with Romans 11:1-2a. What does Paul say about Abraham being saved?

- 5) How does all this impact the idea that if someone comes from the right kind of family they will be saved, too? What do you understand about how you, personally, can be saved by Jesus?

Impact? – _____

Me personally? – _____

- 6) Jesus said to Nicodemus that unless a person experienced “two” births, s/he could never see or enter the Kingdom of God. What are the two types of birth? Jesus refers to them as water/flesh birth (vs. 5-6) and above/Spirit birth (vs.3, 5).

Water/Flesh birth = _____

Above/Spirit birth = _____

- 7) How would you describe these two requirements to a friend today?

- 8) Which person of the Christian Trinity is involved in “birth from above”, the spiritual birth (vs.5-6)? What do you think the illustration of the wind means in regards to spiritual birth?

Trinity Person? _____

Illustration means? _____

- 9) Nicodemus was still confused. He asked, “How can this be” (v.9, NIV)? Jesus responded, “You are Israel’s teacher, and do you not understand these things (v.10, NIV)? Try and explain why Jesus was again disappointed in Nicodemus (vs.10-12).

- 10) Read Numbers 21:4-9. Describe the event with Moses that Jesus refers to. This points to what Jesus is yet to do for the whole world. What is promised to those who believe in the Son of Man (Jesus), who was in heaven and “descended from heaven”?

Event in Numbers – _____

Jesus’ Promise? _____

Are you “born from above”, “born again”? This is the only way to experience the Kingdom of God!
People and situations I want to pray for this week: