

John Chapter 3

Nicodemus – had heard and experienced Jesus. Pharisee- Law, learning, scholar. Sanhedrin- a ruler. Comes by night – secret. He wanted to spend time with Him and learn more – didn't care what time it was. Also was worried about the others.

Calls Him Rabbi- teacher. Wants to learn deep spiritual things. Knows that Jesus is a Teacher sent from God. Had Divine authority; wasn't taught by men. The miracles were the signs of this. They were real miracles- Nicodemus was a serious and educated man.

V 3 : Jesus tells him that he can't just experience the miracles; he must be born again. Regenerated. Verily, amen- what he is saying is true. Need a new life. We need a second birth. Even though Nicodemus is a Pharisee, what Jesus says to him is truth. There are no exceptions. We need a new nature.

V4: Nicodemus takes a literal meaning; build the life from the physical womb. Pharisees were proud for their *first* birth. But, he is willing to ask how.

V 5-8: Verity, verily. Didn't matter that Nicodemus didn't understand; it is still the Truth. The Author of this change is the Holy Spirit. NOT by human effort.

Water- cleansing, Baptism. Also symbol of the Spirit.

We are born of flesh – corrupt, Adam's nature. Born of the Spirit – new nature. First birth is flesh. Second birth is Spirit. We should not marvel at this.

Wind blows where it will - Spirit works sovereignly. We can't know exactly how He works. Different than the natural. The unregenerate cannot understand it.

V 9: Nicodemus does not understand so he questions the truth of what Jesus said.

V10: Jesus rebukes Nicodemus. As teacher of Israel, he should have understood. He teaches others but does not understand. "These things" – great, divine things.

V 11-13: Jesus answers that “We” speak ; refers to the Godhead. He is speaking absolute Truth. The Messiah has 2 natures. And yet Nicodemus does not believe this. He had spoken in ways that Nicodemus should have understood – earthly examples. If He had spoken in Heavenly language it would have been really impossible. Jesus always condescends to our level. He knows and sympathizes. The Son is Ultimate Authority; Nicodemus addressed Him as a rabbi but He is the ONLY One to bring the Divine Message.

V 14-17: Compares Himself to Moses and the serpent. The people who were bitten were dying of an incurable disease. Same with sin. Same idea as a criminal who is condemned to death under the law. Numbers 21: 6-9. The way of applying the remedy is *believing*. *Whosoever* believes.

Verse 16 – The ultimate sign of God’s love. Provides a solution for the ultimate problem of separation. Trinitarian plan. Father gives the only Begotten Son to die for sin- He is lifted up. Leads to regeneration by the Spirit . Wrath is satisfied. Good News. Offer of salvation to all.

V18 : only solution to the sin problem. Those who do not believe are trying to make their own plan. They are condemned already. Legal standing. Roman 8:1. Those who do not believe are condemned already.

V 19: Men love darkness rather than the light. Nature. Love their sin. Don’t want to part from their sins. Light shows them where they are and what they are doing. The Gospel is a condemnation to the wicked world. This is the condemnation.

V 25: John’s disciples are worried that people are going to Jesus. He is always a source of division. These disciples and Jews did not understand what John had said before. They speak nicely about John and not about Jesus.

V27: John reminds them that he had come baptizing to make Messiah known to Israel. Humbles himself. Does not want flattery and applause. John knows that this comes from Heaven. He is the servant.

V29; the Bride and Groom comparison. The Bride is bought by Jesus. John is His friend so he rejoices. Friends of the Groom must receive instructions.

V 30 : John is agreeable to decreasing as Jesus increases. He sees himself compared to the Glory of Christ. John is of the earth and Jesus is the One Who came down; He is above all. John instructs his disciples about the Glory of Christ. Knows His Divine Authority. Knows that he existed before His conception.

Jesus speaks what God says. Speaks the Plan and most do not listen and accept. Those that accept know it is from God. Come by faith.

He does not have the Spirit by some measure. Fullness of the Godhead dwells in Him. Jesus is not a vessel for the Spirit as we are; He is a Fountain of Spirit.

V 35: Father loves the Son. Delighted in Him. Father has made the Son Lord of all. All was made by Him and through Him and for Him. Only Way of salvation.