

Born of the Spirit

A MAN WHO CAME TO JESUS BY NIGHT

Joh 3:1-36 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 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.**"

HOW VARIOUS PEOPLE RESPONDED TO THE SIGNS

1) Many people saw the signs and **believed in his name**

- John 2:23-25 Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. (24) But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. (25) He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

2) Some Pharisees plotted together about how they might kill Jesus

- Mar 3:4-6 ... "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. 6 The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

3) BUT Nicodemus and some Pharisees (He said "WE")

- Recognized Jesus was from God
- Acknowledged the signs as works of God
- Called him Rabbi

The conflict:

- He had not yet believed on Him
- He was not rejecting Him
- He was searching? curious? something missing from His life?
- concerned about what others thought (By Night?)
- Saw him ONLY as a Rabbi? - someone to help him attain HIS goals in life
 - to religiously follow the law
- Was He thinking Jesus is the Messiah? (they were asking John if he was - like they were expecting) - someone like a King - like David - so maybe there was some confusion and he was coming to find out from Jesus

Jesus cuts to the heart of the matter

John 3:3 Jesus answered him, "**Truly, truly**, I say to you, **unless one is born** again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

3 Jesus answered him, "**Truly, truly**, I say to you, **unless one is born** again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 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. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

- Truly Truly - this is a VERY critical truth - emphasis Jesus
- It is universal (unless one) meaning this applies to ALL people
- Christianity is supernatural
- You cannot see or enter the kingdom of God without being born again - *SEE means to be aware, behold, have knowledge, perceive, see, understand*

We are born of the flesh - and that birth leaves us spiritually dead

Jesus did not come to make bad people good, but to make dead people alive

- Eph 2:1-5 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE BORN AGAIN?

Born AGAIN - Again is the Greek word, *anōthen*, which has three meanings:

FIRST : To do something a **second time**

- Joh 3:6-7 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.'

SECOND: It also means to **begin radically, completely, a new beginning**;

- "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

THIRD: It also means **from above - that is God does it**

- John 1:9-13 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. (10) He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. (11) He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. (12) Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- (13) children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, **but born of God.**

The two births are real, and they are radically different

- two different births (natural and spiritual)
- two different fathers (my dad, God the Father)
- two different natures (flesh and spirit)
- two different "destinations" (natural world - kingdom of God)

Application - how have I responded to Jesus - By Night? Peer pressure? all in?

HOW CAN A MAN BE BORN WHEN HE IS OLD?

AS MOSES LIFTED UP - TELL THE STORY

Joh 3:14-18 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

- Acknowledge you have been bitten by the serpent
- Accept there is nothing you can do to fix your problem
- Acknowledge that God has provided a solution
- Believe what he has said and look to the serpent on the pole

Receive and Believe

- John 1:9-13 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. (10) He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. (11) He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. (12) Yet **to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--** (13) children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, **but born of God.**
- 1 John 5:1-3 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ **is born of God,** and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. (2) This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. (3) In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

1) Receive Him - He came to his own they rejected him (accept the testimony about Him)

2) Believe in His name - Jesus is not speaking about a belief that informs your mind, but a belief that transforms your heart, life, desires, actions, decisions, and purpose! That is truly to believe.

3) Believe Jesus is the Christ

Three things for those Who Believe

1) Eternal Life - Joh 3:15 that whoever believes in him may have **eternal life.**

2) Will not perish - Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

3) Is not condemned Joh 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Joh 3:18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

How do I Know I Am Born Again?

What are the effects of the Spirit we see in our lives?

We practice righteousness

- 1Jn 2:29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.
 - **Zaccheus** - “**today salvation has come to this house**”
 - **John told Pharisees** - bring forth fruit that shows you have repented - don't presume all is OK just because you are Abraham's seed

We Love God's people

- 1Jn 5:1-3 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.
- 1Jn 4: 7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

We overcome the world

1 John 5:4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

A change in attitude toward sin

- 1Jn 5:18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.
- 1Jn 3:8-10 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. 10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

Application

2Co 13:5-6 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! 6 I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test.

The Effect of the Holy Spirit - Driven by the Wind

To be born again is to have God's life - alive in you

Joh 3:8 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."

- Rom 8:14-16 For **all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.** 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Nicodemus saw the effect of the Spirit in Jesus's life and he recognized it as from God (like the wind he saw it's effect, but could not tell where it came from or where it was going...Jesus identified it as the breath or wind of the spirit...SO IS EVERYONE WHO IS BORN OF THE SPIRIT

Application

Gal 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Have we lost the excitement and mystery that comes with being born again - and being led or directed by the spirit...there is somewhat of a mystery that comes with being born again...have we become complacent regarding the supernatural aspect of walking with Him

- the excitement of how the LORD will speak to me
- how the LORD will use me
- how the LORD will direct me

EXAMPLES:

- Phillip and Samaria and the Eunuch
- Paul on the road to Damascus
- Peter on the way to the temple - silver and gold I do not have - but rise and walk
- What about us - are our "glory days" in Christ no different than a 40 year old talking about the high school days, or are our glory days happening now...

Three People I am speaking to today

1) Those who have never been born again - and know they need Jesus - they need the new birth...YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

2) Been to church but never realized that the Christian life is a new birth - bringing about a radical change - you have settled for carnal Christianity rather than one that is energized by the life of God in me...HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM BORN AGAIN

3) Those who want to stir up something that has grown cold...to be moved once more by the wind of the spirit...to have the excitement and anticipation of being led by the spirit...DRIVEN BY THE WIND