

Scripture Reading: Ten Commandments (Deut. 5) & John 3:1-20
Singing: 320:1-5 – 325:2 – 238:1-3 – 69:1-2 – 425:3, 5, - 215:1, 6

Introduction:

- A. We are all born with many needs.
- B. Yet one need is greatest of all: John 3:3, 5

The New Birth

I. Why needed? II. How obtained?

I. WHY NEEDED?

- A. Because without it you *cannot be part of God's Kingdom*: 3, 5, 6.
 - 1. you cannot see & enter the Kingdom of God/heaven
 - a. Jesus' Kingdom is not physical – material – being part of church

 - b. Jesus' Kingdom is *life of loving devotional serving of God and man*
 - 2. as parents we need to use every opportunity to illustrate this greatest need
 - a. greatest dangers for us and our children is not in the world

 - b. it is in the heart dominated by sin (Ps. 51:1-3)
 - 3. all teaching about sin does never change the heart
 - a. we need a divine **intervention** & **indwelling** *to be born again* (vs. 8)

 - b. this Divine work is known by its long-term fruit
 - what fruits?

 - what to do with these fruits?

II. HOW IS THIS NEW BIRTH OBTAINED?

- A. Jesus told Nicodemus the new birth is a work of God Himself (vs. 8)
 - 1. What did Jesus NOT say to Nicodemus as answer on our question?
 - a. work to get better

 - b. go home to pray and wait for it
 - 2. What did Jesus say to Nicodemus as answer on our question?
 - a. Jesus unpacked the most incredible story of love: 12-21

 - b. Only when God's Spirit enables us to believe this, will we experience the *life-changing power of God's regeneration power*

Close: How to imitate Jesus' approach as we deal with our children's sins?

- A. Share the Gospel story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection with them
- B. Encourage them to follow David's footsteps: Ps. 32:5; Ps. 51:1-4

C. Comfort them with Jesus' own Gospel promise as declared in the Gospel and affirmed in Holy Baptism: vs. 14-17; 1 John 1:8-9

D. Exhort them to show their thankfulness in good works (Titus 3:3-8)