

Developing A Life of Prayer
EDGEMONT BIBLE CHURCH
2/16/2022
“Related to the New Birth”

I. The First Round – vs 1-3

A. The Pray-er

1. Nicodemus – vs 1

- a. The only person named in a scene with Jesus
- b. John doesn't name the
 - i. Woman at the Well,
 - ii. Invalid at the Pool,
 - iii. Woman taken in Adultery,
 - iv. Blind Man

2. A Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews – vs 1

- a. A strict sect of the Jewish religion
- b. A group often at odds with Jesus
- c. Some believe a member of the Sanhedrin, a counsel of 71 that governed Jewish issues
- d. Unlike others who were antagonistic, he seems to be open to the one claiming to be the Messiah

3. The Subject - Compliments – vs 2

- a. Nicodemus' Focuses - signs
 - i. John had only given one sign so far in the Gospel - 2:11
 - ii. Jesus had done many signs – 20:30; 21:25
- b. Nicodemus' explanation
 - i. we know that You are a teacher come from God
 - ii. for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.
 - iii. Apparently not one that thinks He did those things by the power of a demon
–7:20; 8:48

B. The Pray-ee

1. Jesus

2. The Answer

- a. What was the Question?
- b. The Intensity - *Most assuredly/ Truly, Truly*
- c. It's Essence
 - i. The new birth divinely initiated (see vs 13)
 - ii. Needed to experience the Kingdom of God
 - iii. Participation in Kingdom life
 - the power and fruit of a new birth
 - become an heir to enter the kingdom in a future sense
 - iv. Jesus is using the concept of Birth as a basis to explain the second birth
 - As natural birth comes with natural privileges

- Spiritual birth comes with spiritual privileges

II. Second Round - vs 4-9

A. The Impossibility – vs 4

1. Nicodemus's recognition of His Inability
 - a. *How can a man be born when he is old?*
 - b. *Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?*
2. Right where God wants us

B. The Necessity – vs 5-8

1. Jesus' Intensity Continued - *Most assuredly*
2. The Requirement – vs 5
 - a. *Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*
 - b. Many think, born of water means natural birth, but Nicodemus should have thought - Eze 36:25-27
3. The Reasoning – vs 6
 - a. *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*
 - b. What is natural, born of the flesh, is flesh
 - c. What is supernatural, born of the Spirit, is of the spiritual realm
4. The Resource – vs 8
 - a. The Spirit is strategic in the new birth
 - b. Jesus' description of the Spirit's work
 - i. *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes*
 - ii. Man has no control over this work
 - It is not unreliable or haphazard
 - It is unseen and unattached to human manipulation
 - iii. *So is everyone who is born of the Spirit – His work is mysterious, powerful and beneficial*

C. Nicodemus' Inability to Understand – vs 9

1. *"How can these things be?"*
2. Not only is the spirit's work beyond human power, but also beyond natural understanding - 1Co 2:13

III. The Particulars Explained – vs 10-21

A. The Curiosity – vs 10

1. Nicodemus had been Curious – vs 1-2
2. Even more Curious was that he, a leader of Israel, didn't understand what Jesus taught straight out of OT Scripture
 - a. *"Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?"*
 - b. Eze 36 speaks of the New Covenant

B. Certainty – vs 11-12

1. Jesus teaches what He knows to be true - *"Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen,*
2. You through-out vs 11-12 is plural
 - a. *and you do not receive Our witness.*

- b. Either the religious leaders or the nation of Israel had not received what God was giving them
 - 3. If simple things are hard, hard things are really difficult - *"If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?"*
- C. The Coming of the Messiah – vs 13
 - 1. *"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.*
 - a. Enoch and Elijah both ascended to heaven, but not on their own initiative
 - b. Though the subject is humanity, angels that ascend and descend, do so at the will of God
 - 2. Only Jesus, the Son of God, Who was foretold to be coming, came – Is 7:14; 9:6-7; Mic 5:2
- D. The Centrality of the Messiah – vs 14-15
 - 1. *"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,*
 - a. *even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,* - referring to His death
 - b. *"that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.* – trust, faith . belief that His death fixes the problem
 - 2. Analogy from Moses - Num 21
 - a. People being bit by venomous snakes due to their complaining
 - b. God tells Moses to make a serpent of bronze on a staff that people can look at to be saved from the bite
 - c. Look and live – one wonders if people died b/c they didn't look (believe)
- E. The Need for the Coming of the Messiah – vs 16
 - 1. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*
 - 2. The Love of God was in action
 - a. to bring about reconciliation for the world
 - b. to bring about the potential new birth that brought this discussion
 - 3. 3 words relating to the new birth
 - a. Whoever ***believes***
 - b. Possesses ***Eternal Life***
 - c. The explanation for the way of belief – God's love provides a gift for His purpose
- F. The Cessation of Judgment – vs 17-18
 - 1. The Purpose of sending His Son –
 - a. Not for condemnation
 - i. *"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,*
 - ii. Though Judgment will come - Jo 5:28-29
 - b. To provide New Birth
 - i. *but that the world through Him might be saved.*
 - ii. Lu 19:10 "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."
 - 2. Who can be Born Again and escape condemnation?
 - a. *"He who believes in Him is not condemned*
 - b. Jo 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.
 - 3. What if they don't

- a. Condemnation is the state in which all sinners live –
 - i. *but he who does not believe is condemned already,*
 - ii. Ro 3:10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;
 - iii. Eph 2:1-3 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
- b. The Only Way
 - i. *because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*
 - ii. Jo 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
 - iii. Jo 10:9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

G. The Contrast in People - vs 19-21

1. The Rejection of the new birth

- a. It's rejection
 - i. *and does not come to the light*
 - ii. The light of the coming Messiah – *that the light has come into the world* – Jo 1:4-5; 8:12
- b. The Reason for the rejection
 - i. ***men loved darkness rather than light,***
 - *because their deeds were evil.*
 - *"For everyone **practicing evil** hates the light*
 - ii. ***and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.***
 - iii. 1Jo 1:6, 8 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth....If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- c. The Result of the rejection - *And this is the condemnation*

2. The Acceptance of the New Birth

- a. He Does Truth
 - i. *"But he who does the truth* – new birth
 - ii. 1Co 13:6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
 - iii. Eph 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,
 - iv. Eph 5:9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),
 - v. *1Jo 1:7,9* But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin..... If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- b. He Comes to the Light - *comes to the light,* - 1 Jo 1:9
- c. He doesn't fear God's Judgment - 1 Jo 1:9
 - i. *that his deeds may be clearly seen,*
 - ii. *that they have been done in God."*

IV. Applications

A. For those that are seeking or don't understand

1. If you don't understand like Nicodemus, keep looking
 - a. It is normal not to understand a spiritual thing when you haven't been born spiritually yet
 - i. Ro 3:11a There is none who understands
 - ii. 1Co 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
 - b. A promise - Jo 7:17 "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.
2. If you are truly seeking, know that a work of God has begun
 - a. Ro 3:11b There is none who seeks after God.
 - b. Mt 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

B. For those that have experienced the new birth

1. We know those that don't know Him
 - a. Maybe they are religious
 - b. Maybe they are good old-fashioned heathens
2. Without the new birth, the only thing they can expect is judgment
3. God is inviting us to participate in His work both by life and in prayer
 - a. By your life – 1 Pe 3:15; Col 4:6; 2 Tim 2:25
 - b. By your prayers – Ro 10:1; 1 Ti 2:1-6

C. Principles from Nico

1. Acknowledging what we know when we talk to God can solidify truth in our hearts
2. Acknowledging confusion and asking questions when we talk to God can lead us to more truth as we look to God to open our hearts