

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!

APPLICATION QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 20TH 2022.

Study of John / John 3:1–21. Harmony Church

Introduction:

In [John 3](#), Jesus takes the time to witness to one man, Nicodemus. He presents for us a model of how to share the Gospel. Jesus does not use a high-pressure sales technique to get Nicodemus to pray a prayer. He simply states the necessity of the new birth, and informs Nicodemus about his need to believe the good news.

Why didn't Jesus urge Nicodemus to make a decision at that moment or to pray a sinner's prayer? What are your thoughts?

I. A Man: Nicodemus.

Since Nicodemus was a Pharisee, he was very strict in his religious beliefs. He was also a prestigious leader amongst the Jews, being a member of the Sanhedrin. Why do you think he came to see Jesus at night?

When you became interested in salvation but before you were born again, did you seek after Christ publically or privately?

II. A Mandate: Be Born Again.

(3:3) born again = begotten from above.

(3:5) The comparison is between a physical birth (symbolized by water) and a spiritual birth (being born from above by the work of the Holy Spirit). We cannot enter the kingdom of God without this spiritual birth. Our physical birth is not enough. (Cf. [John 1:12-13](#))

Some interpret the "water" as water baptism. Others, see it as a symbol of the Word of God. This is done by taking the word out of context. How can we use context to understand that water is referring to physical birth?

"Those who argue that man must be regenerated *before* he can believe like to say that a dead man cannot believe. This takes this particular description further than intended, to say that unredeemed man is *exactly like* a dead man, because a dead man also *cannot sin*." (Guzik)

What do you think of this quote from Pastor Guzik? Do you believe that regeneration precedes or follows belief in the Gospel?

III. A Mystery: Work of the Spirit in Regeneration.

(3:8) Jesus is saying: “The wind blows where it wants to, and you hear it, but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going.” You can’t understand the wind and you cannot understand being born again! It is not something you understand or figure out. It is something you believe.

How did the Holy Spirit work in your life to bring you to faith in Christ?

IV. Moses: The Serpent in the Wilderness is a Picture of Christ Crucified.

([John 3:14-15](#)) In what ways is the story from Number 21 of the serpent lifted up on the pole an illustration of the Gospel of Christ?

(3:16) Notice how this verse narrows: It starts with the love of God for whole world. But then it narrows. Salvation does not come to all, but to all who believe. It also does not come to those who just believe, for many people believe in many things. But the promise is to those who believe in Christ. The Gospel starts wide but ends up narrow. Only those who believe in Christ as Savior have everlasting life. The fact that Jesus Christ died for you does not save you unless it is applied to your life by faith.

(3:16) How can we share the Gospel message with others?

V. The Message: Believe and Be Born Again or Refuse and Be Condemned.

(3:18) In this verse, Jesus divides the whole world into two groups: those who believe and those who do not believe. Those who believe in Him are not condemned. Those who do not believe in Him are condemned already. Which group are you in? According to this verse, what is the reason why people are **already** condemned?

(3:20) Why do people refuse to come to the light (Christ)?

Conclusion: A Miracle ([Acts 26:18](#); [Ephesians 2:1](#))

([Acts 26:18](#); [Ephesians 2:1](#)) What miracles take place when we preach the Gospel?