

THE GOSPEL *of* JOHN

CHAPTER 3:1-12

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-365 FEBRUARY 27, 2000

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Are You Born Again?”

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

BORN AGAIN, NEW LIFE, SALVATION

It Has Been Said That The Passage Before Us
Is The Most Important in All of the Bible.

**Because it Answers Everything That Mankind
Has to Deal With in this Life.**

**Because it is the cure-all for the woes of humanity in politics,
finances, relationships, - in life and in death**

John 3:1-12

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." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "**Most assuredly, 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, "**Most assuredly, 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.' 8 "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered and said to him, "**Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?**"

11 "Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. 12 "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

In Nicodemus Is Represented All Those Who Are Religious And Moral Yet Lost In Religion And Dead In Their Sins

Without The New Birth (See Romans 1-3)

Today's Parallel Would Be That Of The Pope Or Billy Graham Coming To Jesus in Spiritual Need...

Are You Born Again?

1.) Who Can Be Born Again

vv. 1

There was a man of the **Pharisees** named **Nicodemus**, a ruler of the Jews.

a.) Only Those Whom God Has Called

v.1

There was a man...

Some versions say – “(But) There was a man”

In The Original Greek Language There Is A Distinction Implied Between The Belief Of Those People Of Chapter 2 Verses The Belief Of Nicodemus In Chapter 3

Biblical Salvation (there is no other) Must be a Personal Experience that is altogether deep and involves the whole man

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Salvation Must Be Personal – Not Corporate ***God's Personal Invitations!!!***

John 5:2-3,5-6

Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. 3 In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water.... 5 Now **a certain man** was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

God's Personal Invitations!!!

Mark 7:25-26

For **a certain woman**, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet: 26 The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nationality; and she besought him that he would cast out the demon from her daughter.

God's Personal Invitations!!!

John 11:1

Now **a certain man** was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

God Has Called All Humanity to Consider Jesus Christ

John 19:4-5

Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." 5 Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!"

Who Can Be Saved?

Only Those Whom God Has Called

How Can I Know?

- There will be an Increasing Urgency

John 14:6

...**No one comes** to the Father except through Me.

John 6:44

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;

1Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who **calls** you is faithful, who also will do it.

The Invitation is not Exclusive

John 12:32-33

"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw **all men** unto Myself." 33 This Jesus said, signifying by what death He would die.

1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father...

Romans 8:28-31

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Who Can Be Saved?

b.) Only Those Who See Their Need

v.1

There was a man of the **Pharisees** named **Nicodemus**,
a **ruler** of the Jews.

A Pharisee / A Ruler / Of The Jews

1. This Man By Education, (being a Pharisee)
2. By Position (being a Ruler)
3. By Birth Right (being a Jew)

You Would Think Was A Shoo-in For Heaven!!!

Yet He Was In Need.

Something Was Missing in His Life

Are You Rich, Are You Young, Are You Powerful

Matthew, Mark 10:17, Luke

Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"

**He Was Missing Something of Great Importance and
He Knew It**

2.) What Does It Mean To Be Born Again

vv. 2-3

This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a **teacher** come from God; for (because) no one can do these **signs** that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**"

a.) It Means To Be "Born From Above"

v.2

This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "**Rabbi**, we know that You are a **teacher** come from God; for (because) no one can do these **signs** that You do unless God is with him."

came to Jesus by night

Nicodemus Saw Something Deeper Than
Most People...

Making Inquiry
into the things of God

"Rabbi"

A Title of Honor and Respect
(for 400 years God had been silent to Israel - RABBI changed all that in Nic)

Nicodemus Comes Sincerely though Blind

What Does It Mean To Be Born Again?

<i>b.) It Means That There is Another Life</i> <i>v.3</i>

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Jesus, In a Blunt and Direct Way
Cut through the words straight to the very Point

Shockingly,
Jesus Dismantles Nicodemus' Religion
Jesus Says
"Unless"

you do a certain thing – and that certain thing is impossible for you to do, You will never see Heaven

You are not going to heaven. You will never see the Kingdom

NICODEMUS, YOU NEED A REVOLUTION TO TAKE PLACE INSIDE OF YOU

Born Again

grk 509 anothēn (an'-o-then);
from heaven, from above, anew:

1 Peter 1:22-23

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been **born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

Matthew 5:3

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

3.) *When Can I Be Born Again*

vv. 4-6

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, "**Most assuredly, 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.

When Can I Be Born Again

a.) *When You Repent of Your Sin*

v.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?"

How Can I Start All Over

To Repent is To Change The Way
That You Have Been Thinking, Opinions, Attitude, Positions

Matthew 19:24-26

"And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" 26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

When Can I Be Born Again

b.) When You Trust in Christ

v.5

Jesus answered, "**Most assuredly, I say to you**, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Finally, When You Recognize Who He Is

2 Corinthians 6:2

For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

When Can I Be Born Again

c.) When You Receive His Free Gift

v.6

**"That which is born of the flesh is flesh,
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

1 Corinthians 15:50-52

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship...

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4.) *Where Does This Change Happen*

vv. 7-8

7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

a.) *It Happens Within Our Soul*

v.7

"Do not marvel that I said to you,
'You must be born again.'

Nicodemus Must have had Quite a Look Upon His Face

Salvation Changes The Way You "Think" -

1 Peter 2:25

For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

1 Corinthians 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.

Where Does This Change Happen

b.) *It Happens Within Our Spirit*

v.8

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes

Salvation Changes The Way You "Exist"

The Wind

Invisible, But Powerful, Unpredictable, But Observable

The spirit

Invisible, But Powerful, Unpredictable, But Observable

Ezekiel 36:25-27

"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

John 14:16-18

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- 17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Zechariah 4:6

So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.

c.) *It Happens Within Our Body*

v.8

So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Salvation Changes The Way You "Live"

Hebrews 10:22

let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

5.) *Why Must We Be Born Again*

vv. 9-10

9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"

10 Jesus answered and said to him, "**Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?**

a.) Because what we are is Unacceptable

v.9

Nicodemus answered and said to Him,
"How can these things be?"

Romans 3:21-23

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

“Because I Cannot Relate to The Heavenly Realm”

The Spiritual World - - The Physical World

Ephesians 2:18

For through Him (Jesus) we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.
(Note the Trinity Here)

b.) Because what we Think is Corrupt

v.10

Jesus answered and said to him,
"Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?"

the teacher of Israel

Nic Occupied The Seat of Religious Learning.

He Was The Head Instructor

- if you will

Why Must We Be Born Again

c.) Because What our Hearts are Made of

v.10

and do not know these things?

Jeremiah 17:9-10

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? 10 I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

Romans 3:11-12

There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one."

6.) *How Can I Be Born Again?*

vv. 11-12

11 "Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. 12 "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

a.) *Decide to Know The Lord*

v.11

"Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.

b.) *Humble Yourself Before Him*

v.12

"If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe,

c.) *Receive His Offer of Love*

v.12

how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Application & PRAYER

***Who Does This Teaching
Apply To in My Life?***

***What Does This Teaching
Mean to Me Today Personally?***

***What Do I Need to Implement
in My Life as a Result?***

***How Can I Now Use
this Information in My Walk with God?***