

Lesson 05: The Conversation with Nicodemus

Objective: To know that *the only way* to enter the Kingdom of God (to be saved) and become God's child is through the "*new birth*" (born again).

Background: Shortly after Jesus began His ministry, He and the disciples (Jn. 1 :35-51) joined thousands of pilgrims going to Jerusalem for the Passover, the feast commemorating the deliverance of the Israelites from the slavery in Egypt. While in Jerusalem, Jesus clashed with the Jewish authorities because they had turned the temple court into a marketplace corrupting true worship. (Jn. 2:13-22)

Instruction: Read John 2:13-3:36 first before studying John 3:1-21.

Let's Think: Read the conversation as if you were present at the scene.

1. a. Who is Nicodemus, the night visitor? Was he an "ordinary" man? (Jn 3: 1, 10)
b. Based on his compliment to Jesus, who did he think Jesus was?
2. a. Why did Jesus go straight to the heart of the matter? Does John 2:22-24. give a clue?
b. What did he tell Nicodemus about being "born again"? Are *Jews exception* to the rule?
Why was Nicodemus puzzled by Jesus' words? (Review lesson 3, #4)
3. Jesus proceeded to expound the nature of "new birth" to the bewildered Nicodemus.
 - a. According to Jesus, how many kinds of birth are there? Is new birth *natural* or supernatural? Explain (Jn 3: 6, read also Jn. 1 :12, 13)
 - b. How did Jesus use "the wind" to illustrate the *invisible* and the *visible* aspect of new birth? (Jn 3: 8, read also 2 Cor 5:17)
4. In response to Nicodemus' puzzling question (Jn 3: 9), how did Jesus assure Nicodemus about:
 - a. The *reliability* of His teaching? (Jn 3: 11)
 - b. His *qualification* as a teacher? (Jn 3:12, 13)
5. At the end Jesus compared his coming death on the cross to Moses lifting up a brazen serpent, an Old Testament story known to every Jew (Numbers 21 :4-9). Because of His death, *how* and *when* can a man experience "new birth" and have "eternal life" (means "to be saved" or "enter the Kingdom of God")?
6. What *decision* must a person make when *confronted with* the Good News of Jesus? *When* is a person condemned? *By whom*? Explain. Jn 3: 16-21, 36)
7. In the light of Jesus' words, will joining a church save a person? Or by being born into a Christian family? Explain. Do you know where you will spend eternity, if today were the last day of your life?

Let's Remember: Jesus answered Nicodemus, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." (John 3:3)