

You Must Be Born Again

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John 2:23-3:8

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Jesus Knows Men

- Jesus went to Jerusalem for Passover... Cleansed temple^{2:13-22}
- When challenged, declared His true purpose: *in 3 days I will raise it up*^{2:19}
- John reminds us that Jesus knows what is in men^{2:24-25}

Nicodemus - A Good Representative Man

- Nicodemus was a 'good' man
- he was a Pharisee
- he was a leader
- he was a scholar
- Nicodemus was perhaps the best representative man of the time

Why Did He Seek Jesus?

- Nicodemus came to Jesus by night – perhaps when time available
- More likely was concerned about what others would think
- Nicodemus used 'power words' - *we know* - we have influence...
- Nicodemus calls Jesus "Rabbi" - term of respect though little formal training
- Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus came from God - *you are a teacher*
- Was it? *You're influential, we're prepared to welcome you into our club...*

Jesus Speaks the Truth that is Needed

- Jesus didn't play Nicodemus' game - He cut to the heart of the issue
- Jesus knew what was in a man – Nicodemus needed to be born again³
- Nicodemus didn't need more religion or power, he needed a new heart

Nicodemus Missed Jesus' Message

- Jesus thought physically not spiritually
- word "again" can also be translated "from above". See Jn 3:31
- Jesus further explains⁵⁻⁶ God's process - *born of water and the Spirit*
- Most likely *born of water and the Spirit* refers to one event
- Jesus reproves Nicodemus *you are a teacher and yet you do not understand*¹⁰
- Ezekiel's prophecy 36:23-26 - God's promise of what He will do
- God will sprinkle clean water and give a new Spirit=*born of water and the Spirit*
- *You must be born again* = born from above spiritually by God

Jesus Explains the New Birth

- Equates process of Spirit to the wind...
- Irresponsible
- Irresistable
- Irregular
- Invisible
- Inscrutable
- Indispensable
- Invigorating
- The New Birth must be experienced from God, we can't earn it by works
- Make good your New Birth: Jn 20:31; 1 Jn 3:9
- Consider Psalm 139 - David knows that God know him intimately and YET God still saved him... likewise God will save you... respond to His Grace!
- May we pray everyday Psalm 139:23-24