

John 3

"If we were asked to read to a dying man who did not know the gospel, we should probably select this chapter as the most suitable one for such an occasion; and what is good for dying men is good for us all, for that is what we are; and how soon we may be actually at the gates of death, none of us can tell." (Spurgeon)

Jesus and Nicodemus (3:1-21)

- Nicodemus: religious, educated, influential, a seeker
- The Sanhedrin was a 71 member ruling supreme council in Jerusalem
- Nicodemus is a great example of a "seeker." He's open to the possibility that Jesus is who he says he is. He's willing to explore the truth about Jesus. But he's cautious about his beliefs.
- Nicodemus' core question: We've seen what you can do (signs), and know you are a teacher from God, but are you more? Who are you really?
- Jesus introduces the necessity of being born again.
- Understandably, Nicodemus is confused. "How can someone be born twice?"
- This is a great lesson for us. Never expect those who don't know Jesus to "get it." Understanding takes time.
- Jesus tells Nicodemus that being born again is not physical, it is a work of the Holy Spirit.
- The snake in the wilderness. Exodus 21:4-9. Moses lifted up a bronze snake. Anyone who looked at it was healed and saved.
- In the same way, Jesus is lifted up. Anyone who looks to him will be healed and saved.
- "Everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."
- "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
- God so loved
- The world
- He gave
- His one and only Son
- Whoever
- Believes in him
- Shall not perish
- But have eternal life
- Why? Not to condemn the world, but to save the world through Jesus
- Whoever believes in Jesus is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is already condemned
- Here's the verdict. Light (Jesus) has come into the world but the world prefers darkness
- People prefer darkness so they can hide their sins
- Live by the truth. Come into the light. Do right in the sight of God