

Calvary Chapel Viewpoint

Care Group

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

John 3:1–21 (ESV)

¹ Now 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 him, “Truly, truly, 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, “Truly, truly, 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 its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”

¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony.

¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

Who was this Nicodemus? What do we know about him?

Verse 2 When did Nicodemus come to visit Jesus?

Why at night?

What do you think might have been on his mind/purpose?

What does it mean to be born again?

How does someone become born again?

Application: Are you in a right relationship with Jesus now? Based on what?

Verse 5 What does “born of water and the spirit” mean?

What was the Jews’ attitude toward their salvation?

Note: The Jews were so certain they were going to heaven simply because they were born Jewish that some Rabbis taught that Abraham stood watch at the gates of hell, just to make sure that none of his descendants accidentally wandered in there.

Application: There is a big difference between being religious and being a Christian. One could not get much more religious than Nicodemus, but our Lord’s words make it clear that as “religious” as he is, Nicodemus is not yet a Christian. Spiritually speaking, Nicodemus is a condemned man who must be reborn from above. How do religion and being a Christian differ in your life?

Verse 8 What is Jesus’ point as he compares the Holy Spirit with the wind?

Application: Nicodemus came to Jesus—but none of the other Pharisees did. He was an inquisitive seeker much like most of us when we were first exposed to Christianity and we were trying to determine exactly who Jesus is and how He might impact our lives. Look at John 6:44, 65 and discuss what is happening.

Jesus had barely begun His ministry but according to v. 14-15, what did He already know about His mission?

Why did Jesus include the story of the bronze serpent?

What do verses 16-18 reveal:

- About God the Father?
- About Jesus the Son?
- About man?
- About how to get to heaven?

For a Pharisee like Nicodemus, what would be the most shocking part of verse 16?

What does Jesus state in verse 18 as the reason that people are condemned?

Application: There is a danger in leaving familiar passages of Scripture before we let them impact our lives. Take a minute and read verses 19-21 inserting your own name: "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but ____ loved darkness instead of light because ____'s deeds were evil. When ____ does evil ____ hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that ____'s deeds will be exposed. But whenever ____ lives by the truth, ____ comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what ____ has done has been done through God." How does that help this passage of Scripture come alive for you?
