

Nicodemus

Face to Face | Week 2

Hayden | Feb 26th and Feb 29th 2026 | Gabe Cleave



Series Recap

Week 1 – Jesus met with the outcasts (John 4).

Week 2 – Jesus meets the religious elite.

Same Savior.

Different audience.

Same message: **You must be born again.**

Who Was Nicodemus?

- Pharisee
- Member of the Jewish ruling council (Sanhedrin)
- Expert in the Torah
- Highly respected religious leader

If anyone looked righteous on the outside – it was him. Yet Jesus confronts him.

The Danger of Religious Appearances

Jesus' words about the Pharisees (Matthew 23):

- They knew Scripture.
- They didn't live it.
- They wanted recognition.
- They burdened people instead of helping them.

The Night Visit (John 3:2)

Nicodemus came at night.

Why?

- Risked reputation
- Risked position
- Risked influence

The Statement That Changes Everything (John 3:3) “No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

Not:

- Identifying as Christian
- Going to church
- Reading your Bible
- Being moral

But being **born again**.

What Does “Born Again” Mean?

Nicodemus was confused. Jesus explains: “Born of water and the Spirit.”

Three common views:

1. Natural birth + spiritual birth
2. Baptism + Spirit
3. Ezekiel 36 – Cleansing + New Heart

Ezekiel 36:25–27 “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and form all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”

Born again means:

- Cleansed from sin
- Given a new heart
- Filled with the Spirit

The Main Point

You cannot earn salvation.

You must:

- Recognize you are a sinner
- Believe Jesus took God's wrath for you
- Repent
- Place your faith in Christ
- Surrender your life

What Repentance Is

Not just turning from something...

But turning to Someone. Running from sin. Running to obedience. Running to surrender

Ephesians 2:8-10

Salvation is:

- By grace
- Through faith
- Not earned

Luke 9:23

Deny yourself. Take up your cross daily. Follow Him.

If you are holding part of your life back:

- You may be immature.
- Or you may not truly be following Him.

But it results in:

- A new life
- Good works
- Purpose

The Gospel (John 3:14-16)

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent...

So the Son of Man must be lifted up.

The requirement: Believe.

The promise: Eternal life.

Closing Question

Are you a Christian in name... Or have you truly been born again?

