

nicodemus

face to face | week two

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As we go towards Easter, we look at Jesus' interactions

- John challenges the way both the Jews and the Gentiles see God
- The best and the worst by their standards are not what they seem to God
- Last week, we looked at the woman at the well (she didn't know the truth, but Jesus had already dealt with the Jews when He met with the Samaritan woman)
- This week, neither did Nicodemus

Nicodemus

John 3:1-21 (NIV)

1st The Best Judaism had to offer | Nicodemus

- He is part of the Sanhedrin
- Follows the Jewish faith and is considered a teacher
- He is looking for signs and finding them
- He comes at night. Why? Pride? Fear?

2nd Entering the Kingdom of Heaven (Vs 4-6)

- Jesus' view: No one is good enough. Jesus, in effect, is saying no Nicodemus, you don't know
- No human can see or enter the Kingdom of Heaven without being reborn into the Spiritual reality
- A clean break from self-rule and its effects –from human flesh
- Can't see, can't enter unless you're born again
- The physical reality is perishing
- The spiritual world is the reality

3rd Jesus says you must be born again – what does that mean?

1. There is a spiritual world, something beyond the physical
2. A spiritual rebirth, Spirit to Spirit
3. Flesh dies, but Spirit carries on
4. Baptism is a physical event that reminds us or symbolizes a new spiritual birth

Ezekiel 36:25–27 | John 7:37–39 (NIV) | Romans 6:3–4 | Titus 3:5 | 1 Peter 3:19–21 (NIV)

Before new birth: Sin feels normal. God feels distant. Self-ruled.

After new birth into everlasting life: There is a new desire for God.--Conviction replaces indifference.--You begin to love what God loves.

John 4:13–14 (NIV)

4th The Key is Jesus | John 3:13–18

- Jesus is the only one who has come from the Father –He knows the truth
- The only way is through Jesus, just as the serpent was lifted, so Jesus must be lifted up
- Jesus became the curse for us, and we look to Him (Numbers 21:8)
- Those who don't accept the off-ramp to death proceed to eternal death (Rev. 20:14-15)

Galatians 3:13 (NIV)

This face to face changed Nicodemus' trajectory

- A. He begins in the dark (John 3).
- B. He cautiously defends Jesus (John 7).
- C. He publicly identifies with Jesus at the burial (John 19).

John 19:38 (NIV)

Have you been born again? Has your trajectory changed?

- Trusted in Jesus (who He is and what He has done for us).
- The physical act is a physical sign
- Moving towards the light. A growing hatred towards sin
- The light of His word (Psalm 119:105)
- Coming into the light signals I accept the light, and God sees me
- I am unashamed
- I don't need to be ashamed

1 John 3:9| Galatians 5:22–23 (NIV)

