

# JOHN 3:1-21

## REVIEW...

- **JOHN 1:1-51 - IT IS ALL ABOUT THE WORD...**
  - Jesus - the Word - is God - and became a man - to live a perfect life - then die for our sins!
  - Jesus came to open heaven - He is the ladder that allows us to get to God!
- **JOHN 2:1-12 - THE WEDDING AT CANA...**
  - Jesus and the 6 disciples were invited to a wedding...
    - They ran out of wine - Mary the mother of Jesus - told him about the problem...
    - The servants filled up 6 large pots full of water - and when they served it - it was wine!
  - Jesus first miracle - turning water into wine...
    - Jesus came to give us the New Covenant / the New Wine - **Luke 5:37-38...**
    - The New Wine of Jesus is what allows us to enjoy the Wedding of the Lamb!
- **JOHN 2:13-25 - GOING UP TO JERUSALEM...**
  - A family tradition - Jesus went with His mother and brothers to the Passover...
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> Cleansing of the Temple...
    - Jesus got angry and drove out the money changers with a whip...
    - They were making God into a way to make money - keeping people from the truth...
  - The multitudes wanted Jesus to show them a sign...
    - Destroy this Temple and I will build it again in three days - the resurrection...
    - The sign Jesus gave them was the Gospel message - the price paid for sin...

## BORN FROM ABOVE... (5 THINGS)

- **1<sup>ST</sup> - A MAN NAMED NICODEMUS... vs. 1-2**
  - Nicodemus was an old Pharisee - he was a ruler of Israel... vs. 1
    - The Pharisees were one of the main religious denominations of the Jews...
    - They sat in the 'Seat of Moses' - **Matthew 23:2** - enforcing the Law of God...
    - Like saying a congressman represents the Constitution...
    - Jesus had stirred up the leadership by 'Cleansing the Temple'...
    - So most of these religious leaders were already hostile towards Jesus
  - Nicodemus thought Jesus might be from God - but he was cautious... vs. 2
    - So he came to see Jesus at night - when no one else would notice...
      - Unwilling to be bold for Jesus - because he was afraid of what others would say...
      - If we seek to please the world – follow the crowd – go with the flow...
      - We are choosing this world rather than Jesus - It means we reject Jesus...
      - **James 4:4** – “Whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”
    - He came to Jesus and saying - Rabbi - meaning teacher - showing respect...
      - Can someone perform the miracles You did - if He were not from God (3<sup>rd</sup> class)...
      - Jesus had performed various miracles at the Passover - **John 2:23**
      - He wanted to believe - but Nicodemus had doubts / questions about Jesus...

- **2<sup>ND</sup> - YOU MUST BE - 'BORN FROM ABOVE'... VS. 3-4 (4 THINGS)**

- o Answering an unspoken question...
  - Nicodemus has asked if Jesus had been sent from God...
  - Jesus answered Nicodemus by telling him how to get into the Kingdom of God...
  - He was not concerned with Nicodemus question - He wanted him to have salvation!
  - **People will often ask silly questions - 'What is the name of your church'...**
  - **But what they really need to hear about is - 'How can they get to heaven'...**
  - **Do not get caught up in the silly questions - take the opportunity to share Jesus!**
- o You must be Born Again to see the Kingdom of heaven...
  - The word Jesus uses for 'again' - is probably better translated from above...
    - But Nicodemus took it to mean 'again' - and was therefore VERY confused...
    - He asked - can a man enter a second time into his mother's womb - and be born...
    - **At this point - every woman quickly and emphatically answers - NO!**
    - Nicodemus was looking for a physical answer to a spiritual problem...
    - As if somehow there was something he could do - in order to get to heaven...
  - That is why being 'born' - is such a great description of our salvation...
    - **How much effort did it take for you to be born - was it a lot of work (for the baby)...**
    - **True it was a LOT of effort for the Mom - hour of intense labor and suffering...**
    - **In the same way - we do nothing to be saved - it was no effort on our part...**
    - **God was the one who went through hours labor (years for some of us)...**
    - **He suffered - on the cross - so that we might receive new life!**

- **3<sup>RD</sup> - HOW TO BE 'BORN FROM ABOVE'... VS. 5-15 (4 THINGS)**

- o 1<sup>st</sup> - Jesus tried to explain salvation by saying there are 'two births'... vs. 5-6
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - 'Born of the water' - referring to physical birth - the day you were born...
    - Those who are only born 'of the flesh' - are children of satan - **Matthew 12:30**
    - Since they were only born once - they will die twice - physical death / spiritual death
    - **Revelation 21:8** - **"The lake which burns with fire and brimstone... is the second death."**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> - 'Born of the Spirit' - speaking of our salvation...
    - **When we received Jesus by faith - we were 'born from above' - born of the Spirit...**
    - **Where we had been children of satan - we were born again as children of God...**
    - **Because we were born twice - the water then the Spirit - we only die once (physical)**
    - **We get to go to heaven and live forever with the Lord!**
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> - Jesus tried to explain salvation by 'example of the wind'... vs. 7-8
  - Nicodemus must have still looked confused by the idea of being 'Born from Above'...
    - Jesus told Nicodemus not to be amazed at the command - but listen to the wind...
    - *Many Bibles say 'wind blows' - but the word 'wind' and 'Spirit' are the same in Greek*
    - You can hear the wind - but you do not know where it comes from...
  - It is the same with those who are 'Born from Above'...
    - **Jesus point is that we see the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of others...**
    - **When a drunk stops drinking and starts sharing about the Love of Jesus...**
    - **We may not understand 'how' we are born - but we can see the results!**
    - **Matthew 12:33** - **"A tree is known by its fruit."**
    - **Like the picture of a mango tree - it can call itself a palm tree - proof is in the fruit**
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> - Jesus tried to explain by saying - 'He came from heaven'... vs. 9-13

- Nicodemus still did not understand - 'How can this be'...
  - Jesus rebuked him - 'you are a teacher of Israel - and you do not understand'...
  - If Nicodemus would not listen to Jesus talking about simple truths - salvation...
  - Then He certainly could not give him any deeper truths - heavenly things!
  - \* **Hebrews 5:12** - "You have been Christians a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things a beginner must learn about the Scriptures. You are like babies who drink only milk and cannot eat solid food."
  - When we first come to know the Lord - we are not going to understand much...
  - But we should not stay that way - as we get into God's Word - we should grow...
  - It is cute to bottle feed a young infant - no surprise when they mess their diapers
  - But when a grown adult is still on the 'bottle' - still wearing diapers...
  - As believers in Jesus we should be spending time in God's Word...
  - Growing in the Lord to a place where we can begin to teach others about Jesus!
- Jesus had come down from heaven (*answering Nicodemus' first question*)...
  - And since He is the only one to have ever come from heaven...
  - He was the only one qualified to be able to tell others how to get to heaven!
  - People have LOTS of ideas on how to get to heaven - but they have never been...
  - It seems wiser to listen to the only one who has been there - Jesus!
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Jesus explained using the Law - 'a simple choice'... vs. 14-15
  - Just as Moses lifted up the serpent - **Numbers 21:4-9**
    - The Children of Israel were complaining against the Lord - again...
    - So God sent deadly snakes among the people - and many of them died...
    - But they repented and asked God to help - God had Moses make a bronze serpent...
    - The bronze serpent represents the judgment of sin (*bronze - judgment / snake - sin*)
    - If the people were bitten - and looked to the serpent - they would live...
  - If a snake bit you - would you look up - or would you choose to die...
    - The serpent (*sin*) has bitten us all - and we are going to die - **Romans 6:23**...
    - Jesus came to judge sin (*lifted up on the cross*) - if we look up to Him - we live!
    - Salvation is as simple as a choice - look to Jesus and spend eternity in heaven...
    - Or choose to look away - and spend eternity separated from God in hell...
  - This is likely where the conversation with Nicodemus ended...
    - But John goes on to elaborate - tell us why God was willing to come...
    - Why Jesus was willing to go to the cross so we could be 'born from above'...
- 4<sup>th</sup> - GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD... vs. 16-18
  - The reason why Jesus came - LOVE... vs. 16
    - God so loved the whole world He sent Jesus to die for our sins...
      - LOVE - 'unconditional love' - no matter what we have done God LOVES us...
      - So much that He was willing to sacrifice Jesus - so we could have eternal life!
    - Jesus did what no one else could - He lived a perfect sinless life...
      - Then Jesus - the only perfect man - paid the price for our sin - Death...
      - God so loved us - that He forgave all our sins - He gave us Jesus' righteousness!
      - Now when God looks down on us - He does not see our sinful mistakes/flaws!

- He instead sees the perfect life of His Son Jesus – He sees us as perfect/flawless!
- o God did not send Jesus to judge the world... vs. 17-18
  - If we believe in Jesus - we are not judged- our sins are forgiven...
    - Jesus will one day judge all men - the Great White Throne - **Revelation 20:11**
    - But for those of us who have been 'born from above' - there is nothing to judge...
    - Because our name is written in the book of life - we have been forgiven!
  - But those who do not believe in Jesus - they are already judged...
    - Because they choose not to believe in the only name that could save them...
    - Their name is not found written in the Book of Life - so they are judged...
    - The Books are opened - a record of every action / word / and thought...
    - Then they will be judged according to what is written in the Books...
    - Not to see if they will go to heaven or hell – but to show why they are going to hell...
  - So why would anyone not choose to look to Jesus...
- 4<sup>TH</sup> - MEN LOVE DARKNESS... vs. 19-21
  - o Men reject Jesus - because they LOVE the darkness...
    - The same LOVE God has for us - is the same LOVE we have for sin!
    - Why it is that people do not see that Jesus is the answer to their lives...
    - It is not that they cannot find Jesus – it is that the Gospel is difficult to understand...
    - Men stay away from Jesus because they LOVE their sin...
  - o Those who practice evil - hate the light...
    - The world hates Jesus because He convicts the world of sin and righteousness...
    - If it were not for Jesus men could do whatever they wanted without consequence...
    - Like a light shining in the darkness – Jesus reveals the sin of the world...
    - Because men LOVE sin they hate the light that reveals their sinfulness...
    - They do not want their sin to be revealed – they do not want to come into the light!
    - They think that they will have to give up the wonderful sin in their life...
    - They would rather have their sin - than eternal life with God in Heaven!
  - o Those who do good - come into the light - so everyone can see...
    - Those who are not hiding sin - have no problem coming into the light...
    - \* I John 1:7 - “If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
    - If you are wondering where your walk with the Lord is - examine yourself...
    - Stand in the light of Christ and be honest about the sin in your life...
    - When you first get up in the morning - you might think you look pretty good...
    - But when you turn on the light - get closer to a mirror - you see lots of imperfections!
    - The closer we get to Jesus - the more we realize just how much of a sinner we are...
    - Diving us to hold all that much tighter to the one who LOVES us - Jesus!