

Born & Reborn: What's Required to Enter God's Kingdom?

John 3:1-8

1. Nicodemus: What I've Figured Out, Kind Of (1-2)

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."

WHO IS HE?:

- A Pharisee (conservative, but self-righteous)
- Named Nicodemus
- A leader of the Jews

WHAT IS HE DOING?:

- Coming to Jesus [to talk]

WHEN DID HE DO IT?:

- At night

WHY DID HE DO IT?

- He is trying to piece things together

His approach:

- Indirectly, with an implied conclusion.

His stated conclusion:

- Jesus is a teacher from God

His reason (his "math"):

- No one is able to do the signs Jesus is doing without God being with him.

His observations(?):

- Preaching of John @ Baptisms (Mt 3:7)
- Water to wine (2:1-10)
- Signs (2:11)
- Purging of the temple (2:13-22)
- Many believed when they saw the signs (2:23)

2. Jesus: Here Is the KEY Point (3)

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Amen, amen = Truly, truly (translated "most assuredly")

- No one is fit for God's kingdom
- You cannot get there the way you are
- One has to be born – AGAIN, to see God's kingdom. ("re-birthed")

Northridge Baptist Church – Pastor Kevin Subra – June 24, 2012

3. Nicodemus: It Doesn't Make Sense (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?"

Nicodemus is not arguing. He's trying to make sense of what Jesus just said. It makes NO sense. He knows about birth, and there are some obvious unsolvable problems:

- How do you solve the TIME problem?
- How do you solve the TECHNICAL problem?

4. Jesus: There Are TWO Births (5-8)

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Amen, amen

TWO BIRTHS IDENTIFIED:

- Water birth
- Spirit birth

TWO BIRTHS REQUIRED:

- Out of water AND spirit
- Both births are essential, or you are not able to go into the kingdom of God.

TWO BIRTHS EXPLAINED:

- Flesh birth (physical birth – water)
- Spirit birth (spiritual birth – spirit)

NATURE OF THE SECOND BIRTH:

Like the wind (spirit)

- The wind blows as it desires
- You can hear the wind
- You can feel the wind
- You cannot control the wind

Spiritual birth works the same way (not an "ABLE" issue?):

- Spiritual birth cannot be seen
- You can see the results of spiritual birth (people are saved)

Have YOU been born twice? Have YOU been RE-born? RE-birthed? Born a SECOND time? [JESUS SAYS MORE!]