

November 18, 2018
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
JOHN 3 in 3D: "There Was A Man" - Nicodemus Meets Jesus.
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JOHN 3:1-21

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ² The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. ³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into 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 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. ⁸ The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. ⁹ Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? ¹¹ Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. ¹² If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you *of* heavenly things? ¹³ And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, *even* the Son of man which is in heaven. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: ¹⁵ That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. ²¹ But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. (John 3:1-21 KJV)



QUESTIONS TO PONDER, VSS 1-16

1. What does the name “Nicodemus” mean?
2. What were Nicodemus’s status, background and “last name”?
3. What other “name” must Nicodemus now and forever “wear”?
4. In terms of approaching Jesus, how does Nicodemus represent both Jew and Greek?
5. In the presence of Jesus, what were the “*Three Faces of Nicodemus*”?
6. What does the missing or misunderstood conjunction in vs 1 tell us to do?
7. What did Jesus do in John chapter 2 that possibly prompted Nicodemus’s visit with Jesus?
8. What is a “*sign*” (vs a “miracle”)?
9. Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus “*by night*”?
10. Were Nicodemus’s first words to Jesus a real compliment?
11. Who are the “*we*” in vs 2?
12. What does “*Amen Amen!*” mean and what does it imply?
13. How does vs 3 constitute an “answer” to Nicodemus’s opening words?
14. What actually *IS* the “Kingdom of God”?
15. Did Nicodemus rightly or wrongly perceive Jesus’s words of vs 3?
16. What does being “***born of water and the spirit***” mean?
17. Who are the “*ye*” Jesus was speaking of in vss 7, 11, 12?
18. What is the movement of the wind a picture of?
19. In vs 9, how is Nicodemus like the Patriarch Jacob?
20. What is the contrast between the “*we*” of vs 2 and the “*we*” of vs 11?
21. What effect did Jesus describing Himself as the “*Son of Man*” probably have on Nicodemus?
22. How would the concept of the “*Son of Man*” being “*lifted up*” probably amaze Nicodemus?
23. How does vs 16 relate to vss 14-15?
24. At the close of their “discussion” how did Nicodemus “lose” but “win”; and Jesus “win” but only by “losing”?