

Lesson 44 – Nicodemus Visits Jesus

Opening Prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Lord teach us how to keep You as the most important thing in our lives. Teach us to remember our Baptism and how that makes us Your child.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Memory Work: God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

(John 3:16)

Focus: The focus of this lesson to point out that the waters of Holy Baptism indicate that you are born again, born from above; that you are a child of God.

Lesson: John 3:1-21

Points of Interest:

- v.3 Depending on the translation you may read “born again” or “born from above.” Jesus chose to say it this way because both are true. To be born again is to be born from above; to become a child of God.
- v.11 The “we” in verse 11 refers to Jesus and John the Baptist who has not been arrested and is still teaching.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee {FARE-ah-see} and a member of the Jewish council. He came to Jesus one night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that God has sent you as a teacher. No one can perform the miracles you perform unless God is with him.”



Jesus replied to Nicodemus, “I can guarantee this truth: No one can see God’s kingdom without being born from above.”

Nicodemus asked him, “How can anyone be born when he’s an old man? He can’t go back inside his mother a second time to be born, can he?”



Jesus answered Nicodemus, “I can guarantee this truth: No one can enter God’s kingdom without being born of water and the Spirit. Flesh and blood give birth to flesh and blood, but the Spirit gives birth to things that are spiritual.

Don’t be surprised when I tell you that all of you must be born from above. The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound but you don’t know where the wind comes from or where it’s going. That’s the way it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus replied, “How can that be?”

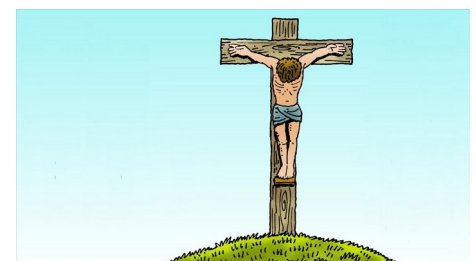
Jesus told Nicodemus, “You are a well-known teacher of Israel. Can’t you understand this? I can guarantee this truth: We know what we’re talking about, and we confirm what we’ve seen. Yet, you don’t accept our message.



If you don’t believe me when I tell you about things on earth how will you believe me when I tell you about things in heaven? No one has gone to heaven except the Son of Man, who came from heaven.



“As Moses lifted up the snake on a pole in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up. Then everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.”



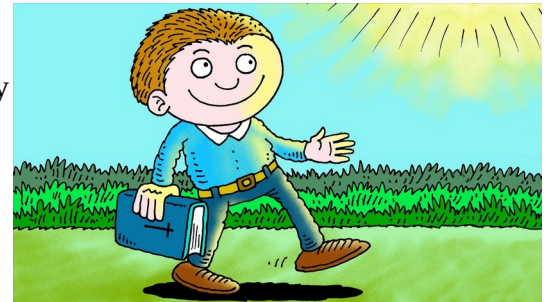
God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world but to save the world. Those who believe in him won't be condemned, but those who don't believe are already condemned because they don't believe in God's only Son.



This is why people are condemned: The light came into the world. Yet, people loved the dark rather than the light because their actions were evil. People who do what is wrong hate the light and don't come to the light. They don't want their actions to be exposed,



but people who do what is true come to the light so that the things they do for God may be clearly seen.



- **Who was Nicodemus?** a Pharisee, a member of the Jewish ruling council. That means he was like a pastor or a Bible teacher. He knew a lot about the scriptures.
- **What time of day did he come to see Jesus?** at night
- **What does he call Jesus?** Rabbi
- **What does Rabbi mean?** Teacher
- **What does he say to Jesus?** We know that you are a teacher who has come from God.
- **Why did he think that Jesus had come from God?** Because he did miracles and nobody could do those things without God's help.
- **What did Jesus say to Nicodemus?** "No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."
- **What did Nicodemus think of that?** He asked how someone could be born again.
- **What kind of birth was Nicodemus thinking of?** the birth of our earthly bodies.
- **What kind of birth was Jesus talking about?** Spiritual birth. He said, "Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."
- **Jesus told Nicodemus, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life."**
What does this say about God? He loved the people of the world so much that he gave his only son for them.
- **What does this say about believers?** They will have eternal life.
- **What about the people that don't believe?** They are condemned.
- Do you think that Nicodemus became a believer? Yes (See: John 7:50 and John 19: 38-42)

Closing Prayer: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, help us to believe in You. Thank for Baptizing us and making us Your child. Teach us to cherish and hold onto the faith You give.

In Jesus' name. Amen.