

John 3:1-21



The same goes for you and me. But, how does this happen? John 3:16, "the Gospel in miniature," explains it. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." So, how does this happen? You must believe in the Son, who was given by a God who loves you.

John 3:1-21

1 Now 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." 3

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 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?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter 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 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? 11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

Discussion Questions:

- Preparation
 - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
 - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
 - The New Birth (1-3)

- In what ways did Shawn's description of Nicodemus change/enhance/challenge how you might have pictured Nicodemus in the past?
- How does knowing that "again" in the phrase "born again" can also be translated "from above", add a new perspective for you to this oft-used phrase?
- The Nature of the New Birth (4-8)
 - Like Nicodemus, how have you perhaps been challenged or confused by how Jesus describes being born again? How did Shawn's use of C.S. Lewis's Bios vs. Zoe help clarify or enhance your understanding?
- The Reason the New Birth is Possible (9-15)
 - Have you decided for yourself to look upon the raised Jesus for this new Spirit/Zoe? It is available to all who believe! During this challenging time, who might be on your heart/mind to speak to about spiritual re-birth? Perhaps this is the time!
- The Necessary Response (16-21)
 - Shawn said that everything happens because of the love of God... He has not given up on us nor has he forgotten us. When might you be guilty of forgetting about His love for you? When has God been faithful to you in the past? Where do you need him today?
 - God pursued, God love, God gave... What should (must) we do? Believe in Jesus, the Son of Man, who takes us out of ourselves and into His abundant, eternal life. Will you turn over more of your "darkness" to the light of the world? What would it look like to do that, and go deeper in relationship with Jesus?