

JESUS TEACHES THE TEACHER

ENCOUNTERS *with* JESUS

LIFE CHANGING LEARNINGS FROM THE LIFE OF CHRIST

WEEK 3 | JOHN 3: 1-21, NICODEMUS

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THE IDEAL TEACHER

A study was done in Colorado in which 3000 high school seniors were asked about their best teachers. From their responses this composite was drawn. The ideal teacher:

- (1) is genuinely concerned and interested in students as individuals;
- (2) requires students to work;
- (3) is impartial in dealing with students (Fair and Just); and
- (4) is obviously enthusiastic about teaching.

JOHN 3:1-2

- Nicodemus is described as a “Jewish Religious Leader”, in Greek it is ‘Arxon’ meaning ruler or chief. The Sanhedrin was 70 Jewish leaders. Nick was highly esteemed and accomplished.
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- He addressed Jesus as Rabbi meaning teacher- a term of respect, and as a peer. He confessed that he and other Jewish leaders saw Jesus as sent by God to teach them in the power of God.

Read Through John 3:3-21

- Vv 5-7 Redirection: The New Birth
- Vv 16-18 Reconciled: The Only Son

REDIRECTION / THE NEW BIRTH

How humbling it must have been for Nicodemus the esteemed teacher to hear that he needed to go back to the start and be born again!

What does “Born of water and spirit” mean?

- It can't mean baptism because Christian baptism wasn't even known at the time of this conversation. (And it would contradict the clear teaching of scripture because baptism isn't required for salvation)
- Born of water' could mean natural birth. (however V5 is conjunctive- 'and', V6 is disjunctive- 'but') But Jesus is explaining what it means to be born from above.
- It is best understood as New Covenant language- the very words Nicodemus should have known and taught others very well!

25 “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you.

EZEKIEL 36:25-26

(Notice the connection to God’s work of water and spirit bringing cleansing and a new heart.)

CLEAR NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING

9 Don’t you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don’t fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, 10 or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. 11 Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11

“When Jesus takes possession of our lives it is not only that the past is forgotten and forgiven; if that were all, we might well proceed to make the same mess of life all over again; but into life there enters a new power which enables us to be what by ourselves we could never be and to do what by ourselves we could never do. Water and the Spirit stand for the cleansing and the strengthening power of Christ, which wipes out the past and gives victory in the future.”

CHARLES BARCLAY

RECONCILED: THE ONLY SON

- V16 God’s only Son Jesus is The Agent of salvation. Everyone who believes in him has life.
- V17 God’s intention is to save the world he loves from sin and death, not to judge it.
- V18 We are born into condemnation and unbelief. If we have not believed in Jesus we are already under judgment for sin. God wants to save us!

John makes it absolutely clear that condemnation has “already” (ēdē) taken place for the unbelievers. The idea here then is not one of a possible projected condemnation for the unbeliever but the necessity of escaping an already existing condemnation.

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