



Jesus Teaches the Teacher About Life

John 3:1-21

April 24th - 30th, 2016

Warm Up: Have you ever had to *start over*? It may have been in a career, sport, or some other set-back that required you to begin anew. What was this like for you?

- ❖ Read **John 3:1-21** quietly on your own. After some moments of reflection share one thing that strikes you most in this story. Why?
- ❖ We began this series by saying that Jesus seemed never to take a “*one size fits all*” approach in dealing with human hearts.
 - Based upon this passage in **John 3**, what do you think Nicodemus’ deepest need was?
 - In what ways is this everyone’s deepest need?
- ❖ On Sunday Pastor George shared how some have misinterpreted “**born of water and spirit**” (see v.5, 6) to mean that one must be baptized in water to be saved.
 - Where might you go in Scripture to counter this argument?
 - The phrase, “born of water and spirit” is best understood as being New Covenant language. Read **Ezek. 36:25-26** which prophesies of the New Covenant that Jesus would come to inaugurate. What is the connection you see here to God’s work of water and spirit bringing cleansing and a new heart?
- ❖ Read **1 Cor. 6:9-11**. Although we can all identify with the long list of sins the Apostle Paul writes about, what encouragement and hope does this passage bring?
 - In what ways does Paul’s language echo Jesus’ words to Nicodemus in **John 3**?
- ❖ “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
 - In what ways can you personally testify to the truth of this statement?

Wrap Up: God’s intention is to save the world he loves from sin and death, not to judge it (**John 3:16-18**). Yet apart from belief in Jesus Christ we stand condemned *already*. Close by silently praying for one person in your life who needs Jesus’ saving.