

“Everyone Who Believes” - John 3:4-18

Ask - “If you were to meet Jesus face-to-face, what would you ask Him?”

Background - Even from the earliest stages of His ministry, the Pharisees were aware of and watchful of Jesus. At first they were not hostile or antagonist toward Him. In fact, one of the Pharisees was so curious about His identity and teachings that he came to meet Jesus personally.

“The Need to Be Born Again” - John 3:4-8

(v4) Read verses 1-3. Who was Nicodemus and why was he confused? How was his understanding of being born again misguided?

(v5-6) Explain how Jesus sought to clarify Nicodemus’ confusion. What is the difference between physical and spiritual birth and why are both necessary for salvation?

(v7-8) What reaction did Jesus anticipate that Nicodemus would have regarding the new birth? What did Jesus say to support His amazing statement?

JESUS TOLD NICODEMUS THAT A PERSON MUST BE BORN AGAIN IN ORDER TO BE SAVED. THIS SECOND BIRTH WOULD BE SPIRITUAL, BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

“How Being Born Again Is Possible” - John 3:9-15

(v9-10) Did Nicodemus readily accept Jesus’ explanation of being born again? On what basis did Jesus softly rebuke him for his doubt?

(v11-12) Why was Jesus not surprised by Nicodemus’ disbelief? How had He and His disciples been received and regarded up to this point?

(v13-15) Who did Jesus claim to be? From where had He descended? What did He prophesy would happen and to what Old Testament event did He compare it?

THE NEW BIRTH WOULD BE MADE POSSIBLE BY JESUS’ DEATH AND RESURRECTION. NICODEMUS STRUGGLED TO ACCEPT AND UNDERSTAND WHAT JESUS WAS SAYING.

“Believing Brings About Rebirth” - John 3:16-18

(v16) This is the most well known verse in the Bible. Break it down, and discuss the meaning and significance of each phrase.

(v17) What was the primary purpose of Jesus' first coming? How would this verse be different if it spoke of His second coming?

(v18) How is belief in Jesus (saving faith) related to God's judgment? What is the basis upon which a person is either judged or not judged (ie, condemned)?

THE REBIRTH JESUS SPOKE OF OCCURS WHEN A PERSON BELIEVES IN JESUS CHRIST FOR SALVATION. JESUS CAME TO SAVE ALL WHO WOULD BELIEVE FROM THE JUST JUDGMENT OF GOD.

Application - All of us are spiritually dead in our trespasses and sins and are subject to the LORD's judgment. But God loved the world so much that He provided a way for sinners to be forgiven. He sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins and make salvation possible. By believing in Him, we can experience spiritual birth and become alive in Christ. Everyone who truly believes will be saved! Why is this message so appropriate on the first day of a new year?