
Series: Encounters with Christ
Jesus and Nicodemus

John 3:1-15 (NIV)

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³ In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

⁴ "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

⁵ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

⁹ "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven-- the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

1. JESUS ESTABLISHES THE CRITERIA FOR SPENDING ETERNITY IN HEAVEN.

v. 3 "Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.'"

- We cannot enter heaven in our present state.

1 Corinthians 15:50 (CEV)

My friends, I want you to know that our bodies of flesh and blood will decay. This means that they cannot share in God's kingdom, which lasts forever.

- We cannot enter heaven by our own merit.

Ephesians 2:8 (TEV)

[8-9] For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it.

- We can only enter heaven through Jesus.

John 14:6 (NASB-U)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

2. JESUS ESTABLISHES THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR SPIRITUAL IDENTITY. vv. 5-8

- Jesus establishes a clear delineation between the physical world and the spirit world.
- Our spiritual birth is irrevocable just as our physical birth.
- Being born again is essential to spending eternity with the Father.

3. JESUS ESTABLISHES HIMSELF AS THE ONE EVERYONE WAS WAITING FOR. vv. 10-12

- Some are still looking for a Messiah.
- Some will not believe even with overwhelming evidence.
- Some are not even looking for a Messiah.