



Jesus and a Theologian
John 3:1-21
Pastor Mike Chapman

Nicodemus was a man in his prime. He was a Jewish scholar, a Pharisee, and a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin. Perhaps out of curiosity and possibly under conviction, but certainly led of God, he came to Jesus at night. It is from their conversation that we are first introduced to the idea of “a new birth.”

THE NECESSITY OF A NEW BIRTH

Jesus seems to waste no time and immediately moves to a subject of utmost important: **the Kingdom of God**.

A subject with which Nicodemus was very familiar.

Then Jesus tied the message of the Kingdom of God with a new concept: **being born again**.

A subject that was new and mysterious to Nicodemus.

It was foreshadowed in the Old Testament.

Ezekiel 36:25-26, Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away...And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you.

I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. (NLT)

Jesus made it clear, that there was no other way.

“Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

“You must be born again.”

For Nicodemus that was a **mystifying** concept.

THE MANNER OF THE NEW BIRTH

Jesus told Nicodemus that connecting with God is like being **captured by the wind**.

We don't tell the wind what to do; it blows wherever it pleases.

A God-encounter is **God-initiated** and **God-consummated**.

Wind is both mysterious and obvious.

A God-encounter cannot be fully **explained**.

But it can be fully **experienced**.

FAITH ENCOUNTER OF THE NEW BIRTH

Jesus again takes Nicodemus to something with which he is familiar with: **The bronze snake of Moses**. (Number 21)

Anyone who looks to the Son of Man in faith is saved from perishing and given eternal life.

Jesus challenges Nicodemus with these truths:

...the **Son of Man** has come to earth from God.

...He has come to bring **life** not **condemnation**.

...Believing in God's Son is the **birth moment**.

...Nicodemus, like each of us, has to decide if he loves the **darkness** more than the **light**.

THE REST OF THE STORY

John 7:50-51 *Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, "Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?" (NIV)*

John 19:38-40, *Joseph of Arimathea asked for the body of Jesus. He was a secret disciple of Jesus, because he feared the Jews...He was accompanied by Nicodemus, who brought a mixture of about seventy-five pounds of myrrh and aloes. The two of them prepared Jesus' body for burial with the spices, and strips of linen.*

The breath of God and the new birth...

John 20:22, *Then Jesus took a deep breath and breathed on the disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*