

Nicodemus - Taking the first step

- What is your Date of Birth?

² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

Why did Nicodemus choose to come to Jesus at night? Was he afraid? Was he concerned for his reputation? What was the real reason?

- *³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”*

“To many Jews, to be born a Jew was to be born into the kingdom of God” - Thomas G. Long

⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

Nicodemus is Jewish and he has an understanding of **Rebirth** already, yet he is playing ‘dumb’ in this instance. If a person wanted to convert to Judaism, they could do so by prayer, sacrifice and baptism. When this happened, they were considered to be ‘reborn.’

- *⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*

We must be born of the Spirit and the flesh.

- *⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’*

Jesus is reminding Nicodemus of the Jewish customs and traditions of renewal and rebirth.

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.”

Our physical date of birth was orchestrated by the will of man and woman – we had no control of this. However, when it comes to our SPIRITUAL rebirth, we do have a part to play in that we are choosing to say YES to God.

REBIRTH IS A GIFT FROM GOD.

➤ ***9 “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.***

In essence, Jesus was saying to Nicodemus. Ever since you were born, physically (your 1st birth) your spirit, heart and soul have been living in the land of Sin. But I offer you a chance to begin again – to be reborn spiritually, is about asking God into our lives and to simply begin again – this time under the Lordship of Jesus.

Job 8:5-7 – But if you will seek God earnestly and plead with the Almighty, if you are pure and upright, even now he will rouse himself on your behalf and restore you to your prosperous state. **Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be.**

“Something invisible, Has become so beautiful
I know I am born again, Laughing and stumbling.” - *Treasure* by TREE63

14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

This is an image of the Cross and of Jesus being lifted up so people would be drawn to him.

➤ *16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

“As I look back, this is what matters. I have loved and been loved, and all the rest is just background music” - Philip Yancey