

John 3- Nicodemus

A. Read John 3:1-2

B. Read John 19:39

1. What does John reveal about Nicodemus in these references?
2. Why did Nicodemus come to see Jesus at night and not during the day?

C. Read John 3:2-6 Conversation with Jesus

3. John does not simply relate this story about Nicodemus, but rather he presents the strategy Jesus uses as he speaks with Nicodemus. Note that strategy. Why did you think John included this technique?
4. According to both Greek and Hebrew, "reborn" has three meanings. Which "reborn" meaning did Nicodemus consider?
 - a) born from the beginning, completely, radically
 - b) born again, or a second time
 - c) born from above-born from God
5. Why do you suppose Nicodemus picked the literal meaning?

D. Read John 3:7-13

- 6a. Nicodemus did not understand Jesus' explanation. What point was Jesus making by using the illustration of the wind?

E. Read Ezekiel 18:31 & Ezekiel 36:26

- 6b. According to verses 10-11, what was Nicodemus lacking?

F. Read John 3:14-15

G. Read Numbers 21:4-9

7. John is connecting with the Jewish audience with this illustration. Summarize the illustration and comment on the theme it represented.

H. Read John 3:16

8. Jesus wanted to make clear his mission to Nicodemus. Name the purpose of the mission of Christ?

I. Read John 3:17-21

9. What was NOT the purpose of the mission of Christ?
10. If Jesus wants everyone to be saved, why will some people be condemned?

J. Read John 3:22-30

11. What events began to bother the disciples of John the Baptist?
12. How did John respond to the concerns of his disciples?

K. Read John 3:31-36

13. What is John trying to emphasize in these summary verses?
14. What does the "seal" represent?
15. What does it mean that "God gives his Spirit without measure?"

16. In the last verses, John gives people a choice. What is that choice?

L. Mark 16:16

Readings for Nicodemus 3 Study Questions

A. Read John 3:1-2

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus[Ⓜ] by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

B. Read John 19:39

³⁹ Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus[Ⓜ] by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds[Ⓜ] in weight.

C. Read John 3:2-6

"Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again[Ⓜ] he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

D. Read John 3:7-13

⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You[Ⓜ] must be born again.' ⁸ The wind[Ⓜ] blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you[Ⓜ] do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

E. Read Ezekiel 18:31 & Ezekiel 36:26

³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh

F. Read John 3:14-15

⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

G. Read Numbers 21:4-9

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze[Ⓜ] serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

H. Read John 3:16

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world,[Ⓜ] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life

I. Read John 3:17-21

¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

J. Read John 3:22-30

²² After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. ²³ John also

was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴ (for John had not yet been put in prison).

²⁵ Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶ And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." ²⁷ John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' ²⁹ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease

K. Read John 3:31-36

³¹ He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. ³³ Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴ For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

L. Mark 16:16

¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Beneath the south transept rose window

