



Calvary of Albuquerque

Nick at Nite! - John 3:1-8

From the Series, Believe:879

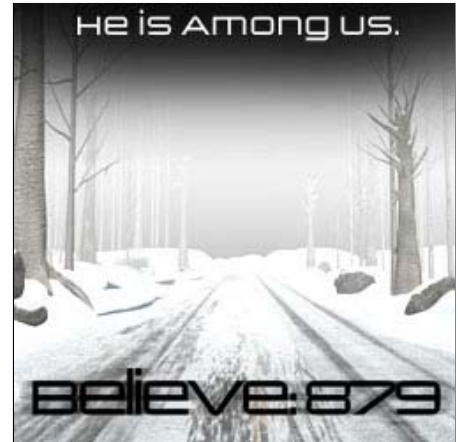
By Pastor Skip Heitzig

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The meeting of Jesus and Nicodemus at night is one of the most famous and compelling stories in Scripture. This man's inner curiosity and spiritual thirst drove him to want to know more. What he heard puzzled and astonished him, but he heard from Jesus' own lips the only way to be saved. Jesus' words here divide all of humanity into two groups: those who are born again and those who are not.

OUTLINE

- I. Spiritual Curiosity (vv. 1-2)
 - A. The Man Named Nicodemus
 - B. The Meeting at Night
- II. Eternal Necessity (vv. 3-6)
 - A. The Meaning of the New Birth
 - B. The Method of the New Birth
- III. Observable Activity (vv. 7-8)
 - A. The Wind Changes Places
 - B. The Spirit Changes People



For Home Fellowships:

1. If you could be any religious leader living today, who would you be and why? If you could be any religious leader (besides Jesus) who's ever lived, who would you want to be and why?
2. What sort of questions do you deal with at night? What do you do when they pop into your mind? How do you resolve them?
3. How much did Nicodemus understand what Jesus was saying? Do you feel you have a good grasp of what it means to be born again? Have you been?

DETAILED NOTES

- I. **Spiritual Curiosity (vv. 1-2)**
 - A. **The Man Named Nicodemus -**
 1. Religious -Pharisee - pledged to keep all of the law. Not just the first 5 books of the Bible, but the oral law as well; the Mishnah and the Talmud
 2. Rich - according to the Talmud one of four richest men in Jerusalem. Brought the myrrh and aloes when Jesus was buried.
 3. Ruler - His name is Greek, means "victor over the people." Ruler, archon in Greek. He was "the" teacher in Israel. One of the most famous, sought after lecturers.
 - B. **The Meeting at Night**
 1. Could be a lot of reasons he came at night.
 - a. fear
 - b. sin
 - c. Probably for quality time with Jesus.
 2. He came. - Not so important why he came, but that he came. (when you are in pain, distress, or loneliness, you are more aware of your need. We should be glad when people come, whatever the motive.)
 - a. Nicodemus called Jesus, "Rabbi." He thought he was being respectful, making Jesus an equal, he doesn't yet know who Jesus is.
 - b. "we" know-a group including himself and perhaps others sympathetic to Jesus and considering whether He is Messiah.
 - c. Jesus had been in Jerusalem doing signs. Nicodemus witnessed that. He saw that Jesus knew the truth as he had never known. Nicodemus curiosity brought him to Jesus.
- II. **Eternal Necessity (vv. 3-6)** Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom. Jesus answers the question that Nicodemus didn't ask. Jesus knew what was in man. "Most assuredly" is our clue that these are important word.
 - A. **The Meaning of the New Birth**
 1. New life, second chance.
 2. Not merely another protestant sect.
 3. Gennethe another -
 - a. born from above
 - b. born a second time
 4. Nicodemus and other Jews believed that the only birth needed was the first birth. To be Jewish and to keep the law. But keeping the law and good works were not enough.
 5. To have new life, you need a new birth.

- 6. You are born spiritually dead. (Ephesians 2:1)
- 7. Jesus doesn't reform you; He transforms you.
- B. The Method of the New Birth -born of water and the spirit
 - 1. Doesn't mean baptismal regeneration.
 - a. Nicodemus couldn't have understood New Testament baptism.
 - b. Jesus didn't baptize anyone
 - 2. Spiritual cleansing- Old Testament description of being spiritually cleansed. Ezekiel 36.
 - 3. Physical birth followed by Spiritual birth.
 - a. "born of water" physical birth
 - b. "born of the spirit" spiritual birth
 - c. First birth necessary for physical life
 - d. Second birth necessary for spiritual life

III. Observable Activity (vv. 7-8)

- A. The Wind Changes Places -can't see it, but the effects of it are plainly observable.
- B. The Spirit Changes People - When a person is born again the changes are observable.
Pneuma is the word for wind and spirit. Same word.
Jesus said you MUST be born again. He was saying this to a religious person. Status, religion and good works were not enough.
George Whitfield said he taught on this passage so much, because Jesus said you must be born again.
Born once(physically) Die twice (physically and spiritually)
Born twice (physically and spiritually) Die once (physically)

Figures Referenced - George Whitfield

Greek Terms - archon (ruler), gennethe anothen (born from above, born again), pneuma (wind, spirit)

Cross References - Ezekiel 36, John 2:24, Ephesians 2:1