



# Calvary of Albuquerque

## Extreme Makeover: Soul Edition! - John 3:9-21

From the Series, Believe:879

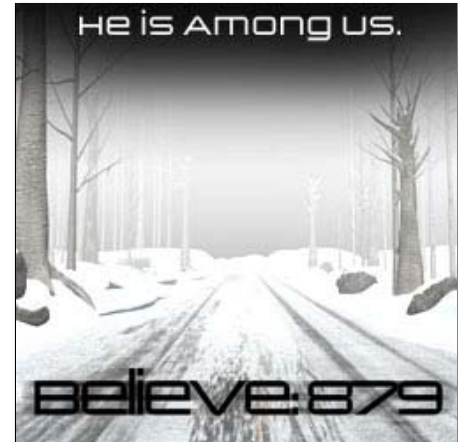
By Pastor Skip Heitzig

### MESSAGE SUMMARY

For years ABC has aired two different versions of a show called Extreme Makeover. One is a total body makeover designed to enhance the physical beauty of a selected individual. The other is a Home Edition that rebuilds or adds to a struggling family's residence. But only Jesus can give the soul a makeover; only Jesus can ready a person for eternity. Here Jesus answers Nicodemus' question of how a person can have the New Life that comes from the New Birth.

### OUTLINE

- I. The Source of New Life: Heaven (vv. 9-13)
- II. The Force of New Life: Atonement (vv. 14-17)
- III. The Course of New Life: Faith (vv. 12, 15, 16, 18)
- IV. The Remorse of New Life: Judgment (vv. 19-21)



### Dig Deeper:

1. In what ways are you like Nicodemus? How did your life change when you met Jesus? What things is He still working on these days? What does Jesus still need to clean out?
2. How do people today avoid the light of God's truth? How comfortable do you feel walking in the light?
3. What do you like best about God and His plan? What do these verses make you want to do?

### DETAILED NOTES

Nicodemus is grown and has lived his life with the outward things in order. His question, "How can these things be? How on earth can things like this happen?" turns the conversation from a dialogue to a discourse. We learn how a man can be born again.

- I. The Source of New Life: *Heaven* (vv. 9-13)
  - A. New life is possible because Jesus Christ, who is life, brought it down from heaven.
  - B. It is impossible for man to reach the new life.
    1. We are in the time and space continuum.
    2. We cannot escape the natural to reach the supernatural.
    3. Religion is man's attempt to reach into heaven, and it won't work because the natural cannot peer into the supernatural.
  - C. God has to come into the natural.
  - D. Either take what He said or we are stuck.
  - E. Most people would rather reach up from earth than take what is handed down from heaven.
- II. The Force of New Life: *Atonement* (vv. 14-17)
  - A. The atoning death of Christ
  - B. The force behind the new life is death
  - C. Someone has to die enabling others to live (New Testament theme, we live because Christ died, 1 Peter)
  - D. Jesus predicted His death to Nicodemus
  - E. Wilderness serpent (Numbers 21) - The complaining Israelites complained against God about the manna, the venomous snakes were sent and thousands died. To be saved they had to look to the brass serpent lifted up in the desert and they had to believe.
    1. They had to believe they were sinners.
    2. They had to believe it was going to work, have faith.
  - F. It is easier for us to look to ourselves than to admit we are sinners needing a savior.
  - G. Must - it is a divine imperative. Jesus had to die.
    1. Justice - without the shedding of blood there is no remission for sins
    2. Love - Love drove Jesus to the cross
      - a. For God so loved the world...
      - b. For the joy set before Him...
  - H. Jesus did not come to condemn
    1. Jews believed the Gentiles would be wiped out
    2. Jesus came for not just the Jews, but the whole world
  - I. Jesus would do anything to get you to heaven, He did everything He could.
- III. The Course of New Life: *Faith* (vv. 12, 15, 16, 18)

- A. Believe (used 98 times in John)
  - B. "How can these things be?" is a statement of unbelief (Jesus said so in vs. 12)
  - C. Unbelief causes ignorance
    - 1. You do not know.
    - 2. You do not receive.
    - 3. You do not believe. (don't believe it, won't believe it)
  - D. Believe what?
    - 1. Not Just acknowledging Him, not just in His name (that He existed, good example)
    - 2. Receiving Him, Believe in Him "Faith is the clutching intensity of a drowning man." - William Barclay
- IV. The Remorse of New Life: *Judgment* (vv. 19-21)
- A. He who believes is not condemned.
  - B. He who does not believe is condemned already.
    - 1. Not everyone will enjoy new life, because not everyone will believe it.
    - 2. Unbelievers will be sentenced at the great white throne judgment.
    - 3. The trial is now. Jesus isn't on trial, we are!
    - 4. People won't believe in Jesus because they love their sin.
  - C. Invitation. He who does the truth comes to the light.

Figures Referenced: William Barclay, Charles Spurgeon

Publications Referenced: Pilgrim's Progress, by John Bunyan.

Cross References: Numbers 21, John 2:23, 12, 1 Peter