

Jesus is the Teacher Come from God

John 3:1-2

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Introduction:

1. Throughout the annals of history there have been great teachers who have enjoyed great renown for their abilities.
2. None, however, have ever been as world renown as Jesus.
3. Jesus was truly the Master teacher of the Ages, and continues to be the master teacher through His inspired Word.

Discussion:

I. A NIGHTIME MEETING.

- A. Nicodemus is no ordinary Jew, but a *“ruler of the Jews.”*
 1. He was quite possibly of the Sanhedrin council in Jerusalem, among whom the members were counted as wise men and doctors of the Law of Moses.
 2. He was a Pharisee, which was the strictest of the Jewish denominations in the time of Jesus.
 3. Nicodemus was not a common man, but a man of prominence in the Jews’ religion and the Jewish society.
- B. Nicodemus has a good heart and recognizes Jesus’ deity
 1. He calls Jesus *“Rabbi,”* which literally means *“my great one.”* or *“my honorable sir,”* it was a religious title used by Jews to address their teachers.
 2. When Jesus denounced the Scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy, He commanded them not to accept the title of Rabbi because he was the only true Rabbi (Matthew 23:8).
 3. Nicodemus recognizes the Deity of Jesus by the statement *“..we know that thou art a teacher come from God”* (Please note the use of the plural pronoun we).
 4. Jesus had been proven because of the miracles He worked.

II. JESUS ON THE NEW BIRTH.

- A. Jesus, as was His custom, takes the opportunity to address a spiritual need.
 1. Nicodemus is in shock after Jesus addressed the need.
 2. The Jews were born into their religion, there was no need for another action to take place.
 3. Thus, Nicodemus, thinking with his fleshly, Jewish mind, immediately has thoughts of a literal, physical birth.
- B. Jesus explains the New Birth to Nicodemus.
 1. The New Birth takes place with *“...water and of the spirit.”*
 2. The fanciful theories promulgated by religionists over the centuries are legion, and are growing at an alarming rate.
 3. However, no amount of Hermeneutical Jumping jacks, Theological Cartwheels, or Biblical Backflips can change the meaning of what Jesus said.
- C. What is the New Birth?
 1. To be Born Again, one must *“...be born of water.”*
 - a. Jesus said, before His ascension to the Father, that baptism saves (Mark 16:16).
 - b. Peter said it saved our souls (I Peter 3:21).
 - c. Peter told the Pentecostians it remitted our sins (Acts 2:38).

- d. Paul compared baptism to the resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6:3-4).
- 2. To be Born Again, one must also *"be born...of the Spirit."*
 - a. Jesus said the Spirit gives life (John 6:63).
 - b. Peter said the Spirit was the Word of God (I Peter 1:22-25).
 - c. When one gladly receives the Word of God they are immediately baptized into Christ (Acts 2:41).

III. NICODEMUS & QUESTIONS.....JESUS & ANSWERS.

- A. Nicodemus asks, *"How can these things be?"*
 - 1. The things are in reference to everything Jesus told him so far.
 - 2. The New Birth consists of an inward renewal because it is the Spirit of man that defiles him.
 - 3. Nicodemus was still seeing through the eyes of the flesh.
- B. Jesus reproves Nicodemus for now knowing the Law like he should have.
 - 1. Nicodemus, an older man, is rebuked by this young man as one who is ignorant of the Law.
 - 2. In the original language, the definite article is before "master," indicating the authority and knowledge Nicodemus possessed.
 - 3. Nicodemus was still grappling with earthly things; thus he would never be able to understand spiritual things.
- C. The "Golden" Verse.
 - 1. Remember the context in which the statement is said.
 - 2. Man is to believe in Jesus and His teachings to obtain eternal life.
 - 3. In context, the New Birth is still being explained.
 - 4. If this verse means one does not have to be baptized to be saved, then it means one can be saved with the Spirit as well.
- D. Light and Darkness contrasted.
 - 1. To believe in Jesus is to believe His teachings.
 - 2. Jesus condemned the world by coming into the world.
 - 3. Man does not want to change because he likes everything to stay the way it is.

Conclusion:

- 1. Any great teacher should be emulated; Jesus should be emulated above all others.
- 2. His teachings are still held in high regard by innumerable scholars, Christians, sectarians, and even skeptics to this day.
- 3. Even those who believe Jesus was nothing more than a "Good Man" can not deny that He was a Master teacher.