

Key Texts

John 3:1-11

1 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council.

2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, 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.

3 Jesus answered, Most assuredly, I say unto 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, Most assuredly, I say unto 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.

7 Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again.

8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.

9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, How can these things be?

10 Jesus answered and said unto him^o

11 Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.

12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.

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.

22 After this, Jesus and His disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where He spent some time with them, and baptized.

23 Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized.

25 An argument developed between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification.

26 They came to John and said to him, Rabbi, that Man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the One you testified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to Him instead of coming to us.

27 To this John replied, A person can receive only what is given them from heaven.

28 You yourselves can testify that I said, I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for Him.

29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.

Key Takeaway Ideas

1

The passage discusses the conversations between Jesus and Nicodemus, emphasizing the importance of being born again and believing in Jesus. This new birth is not about changing one's actions, but about trusting Jesus.

2

The text explores the concept of signs, suggesting that they should point towards Christ. If one's life is a sign, it should point towards Christ in order to bring clarity rather than confusion.

3

John the Baptist's reaction to Jesus baptizing more people than him is discussed. John's focus is not on competition or numbers, but on his role as a steward, pointing people towards Jesus.

4

The relationship between Christ and the Church is likened to a marriage. The Church is referred to as the Bride of Christ in various New Testament passages, and the importance of this covenant relationship is highlighted.

Takeaways & Questions

Key Takeaway Question: Are we, as a church, focusing on the right things? Are our lives pointing towards Christ, and are we trusting in Him for a new beginning?

Key Thought: We are called to be stewards of the faith, pointing others towards Jesus. As the Bride of Christ, the Church should focus on this covenant relationship, rather than becoming consumed by numbers and relevance.

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