

# *Light and Life:* Jesus in the Gospel of John

Today's message: **The Sine Qua Non\***

*\* an indispensable condition, element, or factor; something essential*

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

- **Jesus** in John 3:3

The 2 fundamental questions:

*What is "the kingdom of God?"*

*What does it mean to be "born again"?*

## **Nicodemus: A Case Study**

**John 3:1-9 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

<sup>2</sup> 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."

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.**"

<sup>4</sup> 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?"

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup> 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."

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "**How can these things be?**"

Nicodemus ...

- Religious, but \_\_\_\_\_
- Educated, but \_\_\_\_\_
- Wistful, but \_\_\_\_\_

*His question?*

*Jesus' reply?*

## The will of the **wind**\*

- Is \_\_\_\_\_
- Is \_\_\_\_\_
- Is \_\_\_\_\_
- Is \_\_\_\_\_

### **John 6:63a (ESV)**

<sup>63</sup> **It is the Spirit who gives life**; the flesh is no help at all.

## The serpent, the Son, and the **responsibility** of man:

### **John 3:10-15 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that **whoever believes in him may have eternal life**.

*What should Nicodemus have known?*

*What does the analogy of the Serpent in the Wilderness reveal?*

*What then is the response required for salvation?*

## Conclusion: What is *salvific* belief?

### **John 2:23-25 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, **many believed in his name** when they saw the signs that he was doing. <sup>24</sup> **But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them**, because he knew all people <sup>25</sup> and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

*Does Jesus 'believe my believing'?*