

that you would believe

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

SERMON NOTES

May 26/27, 2018

Nicodemus

John 3:1-21

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John 3:1-21 (NIV 84)

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." ³In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

⁴"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" ⁵Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." ⁹"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?" ¹¹I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.

¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

Numbers 21:4-9 (NIV 84)

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" ⁶Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes

away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.⁸ The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live."

⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

4 Comparisons

Comparison #1

The Israelites... They were bitten by snakes!

You and I... We were bitten by sin!

Romans 3:23 (NIV)

Comparison #2

The Israelites... They experienced physical death from the snake's poison!

You and I... We experience spiritual death from sin's poison!

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

Comparison #3

The Israelites...

A bronze snake was lifted up in the wilderness as the remedy for the death the snakes brought!

You and I...

God's only Son Jesus Christ was lifted up on a cross as the remedy for the death that sin brought!

John 3:16 (ESV)

Hebrews 9:22 (ESV)

Comparison #4

The Israelites...

They had to believe in God's remedy (the bronze snake) to be cured of the deadly poison of the snake bite!

You and I...

We have to believe in God's remedy (Jesus Christ) to be cured of the poison of sin!

Romans 10:13 (ESV)
