

Oceanside Connect Group Outline

Week of September 27th 2015



Key Scriptures

John 3:1–15 (see below) & Numbers 21:4-9

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² 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.” ³ Jesus answered him, “**Truly, truly, I say to 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, “**Truly, truly, I say to 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 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.”

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “**Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?** ¹¹ 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. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. - *John 3:1–15 (ESV)*

Discussion questions from this week’s sermon:

How would you describe the tone of Nicodemus’ greeting to Jesus in 3:2?

Why do you think Jesus changed the direction of the conversation so radically in verse 3:3?

Why was Nicodemus having such a hard time understanding Jesus in 3:3-7?

In what ways is the wind a fitting analogy for the way the Spirit of God works?

According to 3:11-13 what is it exactly that Jesus “bears witness” to?

Is there anything that strikes you as odd in this Old Testament story from Numbers?

Why does Jesus bring up this strange historical account here? How could this story help Nicodemus get what Jesus was driving at in this conversation?

Is intellectual assent to the truth claims of the Bible enough to save someone? Why or why not?

Why is it that God sometimes doesn’t seem to answer our questions?

Jesus lays down a fundamental spiritual principle when he says, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (3:6). Can you give some examples from your life experience that illustrate this principle?

What happens when we try to accomplish spiritual results by fleshly means?