

John-West Sub #10-Notes
June 27, 2021

Today is our **final** lesson in the Gospel of John until **September 12**, the Sunday after labor day.

- In the **first Chapter**, the Apostle John tells us *exactly who* Jesus is:
 - the **Word** became flesh—God Himself became a human being.
- In **Chapter 2** Jesus comes on the scene and **demonstrates** who He is:
 - turning water into **wine**, and performing many other *signs*.
- In **Chapter 3**— Nicodemus, a Pharisee & member of the Sanhedrin, seeks Jesus out, and Jesus begins to tell him **why** He came.
 - In order for anyone to **see** the Kingdom of God, including Nicodemus, he **must** be born again! Undergo a *regeneration by the Holy Spirit*.
- Nicodemus confesses that he has **no idea** what Jesus is talking about.
 - *How can these things be?* (v.9)
- In today's Scripture Jesus is going to **answer** his question--**how** these things can be.

John 3: 11-15

- **v. 11 Amen! Amen! We** speak what **We** know; **We** testify to what **We** have seen,
 - but you (pl) (*religious leaders*) do not accept our testimony.
- **v. 12** I have told you (pl) about things that happen *on the earth* (the new birth, the Spirit's work)
 - and you Nicodemus do not _____
 - How will you **believe** if I tell you about things that take place in Heaven?
- **v. 13** No one has ever gone into heaven and then come back—*able to give clear teaching about divine matters*—**except the _____ of Man.**
 - He is the _____ connecting Heaven and earth (**1: 50-51**, Jesus talking to Nathaniel) **having access to both realms.**
 - *He alone can speak **authoritatively** on all matters on earth and in Heaven!*
- **v. 14-15** Jesus now tells Nicodemus of the **event** that will **link heaven and earth for _____ who will believe in Him!**
 - **The Son of Man must be lifted up**, so that everyone who _____ **in Him will have eternal life.** (*Key concept in John*)
 - *Lifted up*--Also **John 8: 28** and **12: 30-32**
 - **Where would we find the story about this serpent?**
 - **Numbers 21: 4-9**
- **Why does Jesus reference *this incident* to Nicodemus?**

The content Nicodemus' faith needs to graduate from **Teacher** to **Savior**, or there is _____ birth from above.

- "He needs to trust that God is not only **with Jesus**, but that Jesus is "**_____ with us**"!
- "**Trusting**" or "**believing**" is the **single major response** that Jesus is *looking for* in human beings.

Nicodemus: "How can these things be?"

- By _____ **in** this man who will be _____ **up** for your sin.

John 3: 16 (1st use of **Love** in John's Gospel)

- also, a **look back** to another **type** in Genesis 22, where another father, was willing to sacrifice his "one and only son, the son he loved." **Who?**

Calvin: "Men are not easily convinced that God _____ them; and so, to remove all doubt, He has expressly stated that we are so very dear to God, that for our sakes, He did not spare even His **Only begotten Son.**"

"This verse is the **heart** of the gospel **from** the heart of the God who "loved us so much" **to** the heart of every individual *who needs Him so much.*"

Nicodemus, "The *wonderfully divine way* into the **Spirit's transformation** is **simple** _____ in the **divine-human Son**, given for us."

One commentator summarized **John 3: 16** this way:

- God's motivation toward people is _____
- God's love is _____ limited to a few or to one group of people.
- His **gift** is for the _____ world.
- God's love was expressed in the giving of His **most** _____ **gift**, His *One and only Son*.
- On man's side, the gift is simply to be _____, (not earned).
- He or she will _____ perish, *experience ruin in hell*, **apart** from God who is **life**, truth and joy.
- But will experience a **new quality of** _____ as a *present possession* and will possess forever.

John 3: 17

- **God sent Jesus into the world on a** _____ **mission.**
 - Paul: "God was in Christ reconciling **the world** to Himself." (2 Corinthians 5: 19)
- This was a **huge** undertaking on God's part.
 - (1 John: 2: 2) "... and not for our sins only, but for the sins of the **whole world.**"

John 3: 18

- There is a switch from the "**world**" to the "*individual*", "**anyone, whoever**"
 - All of us--as *individuals*--are **drowning** in our sin and unbelief!
 - *Including Nicodemus.*
 - Without the _____ offered to us by Christ, everyone will drown.
- **What does He mean by "whoever does not believe is condemned already"**

"There is a *life-and-death urgency* here--a decision "for or against" God's **free gift** of His Son.

John 3: 19-21 What is the **real problem** with us?

John 3: 22-24

- We have come full circle from **John 1: 19** (*After His 40 days in wilderness*)
- Jesus was introduced by John the Baptist: **Lamb of God** *who takes away the sin of the world.*
- Jesus has traveled with 4 or 5 disciples to Cana for a wedding; then Capernaum (for a few days)
- Then to Jerusalem for Passover, where He *overturned* the money changers in the Temple.
- He meets with Nicodemus; explained **how** Nicodemus (and *everyone*) could be born of the **Spirit** and **enter** the Kingdom of God. (Approx. **1 month** into His public ministry.)
- **v. 24** and then back to where John is baptizing. "*John had not yet been thrown into prison.*"
 - Mark 1: 14-15 (Matthew 4: 12) "**After** John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee."
 - John 4: 3 "*He left Judea and went again to Galilee*"

(Pickup in September)