

John-West Sub #9-Notes
June 20, 2021

John 2: 23-25

- Jesus was **now** doing *many* _____ during the Passover Festival. **John 20: 30-31.**
 - As a result, **many** _____ *in His name!*
- Jesus, however, would **not** _____ Himself to them...
 - ...because He knew what was in man.
 - *He sees people's hearts.*
 - "Sign faith" can be superficial--After feeding of 5,000, (John 6: 25-66)
 - but does not need to be. (John 20: 30-31)
- Jesus was not able to *entrust Himself*--to those professing faith in Him.

John 3: 1-8

- We are introduced to **Nicodemus**, who is intrigued by Jesus and comes to talk with Him.
 - He acknowledges that Jesus is a _____ **from God.**
 - "No one could perform these _____ unless God were with him."
- He is mentioned only 2 other times in the Scriptures
 - **John 7: 45-52**, *Temple police*
 - **John 19: 38-42**, *Burial*

John 3: 3

- **v. 3** **Amen, Amen**,...unless someone is **born again**--he **cannot** _____ the Kingdom of God!
 - Jesus' **response** goes right for the jugular: his *standing* with God: _____ **salvation.**
- This is a **radical** doctrine. Does the already devout Nicodemus really need a *whole new birth* in order to qualify to be a part of God's Kingdom?
- Isn't he **already** a part of God's people, a descendant of Abraham? Committed to keeping the Law?
- *All human beings, without _____, even deeply religious people, desperately* need a deep, spiritual change in order to be part of God's family.

John 3: 4-10

- **v. 5** "Amen! Amen! Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he _____ **enter** the Kingdom of God."
- **v. 6** There are two distinct realms:
 - **the** _____ (fallen man)
 - **the** _____ (God's Spirit)
 - *A fallen man cannot regenerate himself.*
 - *Only God's Holy Spirit can regenerate a human spirit.*
- **v. 7** **You** (plural) _____ (**absolutely necessary**) *be born again!!*
- **v. 8** Greek word for *spirit* (*pneuma*) is the same word for *wind*.
 - Jesus uses an **illustration**; makes a comparison of the *wind* with the *Holy Spirit*.
 - **Wind**--You don't **see** it...*you can't control it*, but you *feel* it, you *hear* it, you *see the results* of it.
 - **Holy Spirit**--You don't see Him, *you can't control Him*, but you can feel Him and see the results of His work.
- **v. 10** *Are you the teacher of Israel, and you don't know these things?*
 - Jesus indicates that this is something he should **already know** as a teacher of the Scriptures.
 - **Ezekiel 36: 24-28** "My Spirit in you"
 - **Joel 2: 28-29** "Pour out my Spirit on all mankind!"
 - **Jeremiah 31: 31, 33** "The New Covenant--My teaching within them-on hearts."

Jesus is telling Him about a “_____ **transformation**” that takes a person **out of the Kingdom of Darkness and into the Kingdom of God.**

- **A spiritual re-birth must happen through the _____ !**

“In chapter 3 Jesus speaks rather extensively. It is as if here at last, for the first time in this Gospel, Jesus can pour out His heart on the matter of *greatest concern* to Him: how men and women come—are *born anew*—into a deep and living relationship with God.”

- Back to **v. 5** (“water”) **“Amen, Amen, Unless someone is born of *water* and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.”**
 - **What Jesus means by “water”?** (4 potential options)
 1. refers to the *natural* _____.
 2. refers to the _____ of God (Ephesians 5: 26)
 3. water is a symbol of the _____ (John 7: 37-39) (Ezekiel 36:25) I.e., “born of water, *that is the Holy Spirit.*”
 4. refers to the “_____” ministry of John the Baptist (baptizing in water.) By refusing to be baptized by John, the Pharisees and the Bible teachers rejected God’s purpose for themselves. So, Jesus would be saying, “You must turn to me in *repentance* and be regenerated by the Holy Spirit.”

John 3: 11-15

- **v. 11 Amen! Amen! We** speak what **We** know; **We** testify to what **We** have seen, but you (*religious leaders*) do not accept our testimony.
- **v. 13** No one has ever gone into heaven and then come back—*able to give clear teaching about divine matters—except the* _____.
 - He is the **ladder** connecting Heaven and earth (**1: 50-51**) **having access to both realms.**
 - *He alone can speak _____ 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 everyone who will believe in Him!**
 - **The Son of Man must be** _____, *so that everyone who **believes in Him** will have **eternal life***
 - “Lift up” also **8: 28** and **12: 32**
 - **Numbers 21: 4-9**
 - *It is a _____ of what Jesus would do for the world.*
 - *An almost picture-perfect parable of the way God had determined to save us.*
 - *If Nicodemus can make the connection--either now or following the crucifixion!*
 - *he can experience **eternal life** in Him.*
- “If the content Nicodemus’ faith does not graduate from _____ to _____, there is no birth from above.
- He needs to trust that God is not only “*with Jesus*” but that Jesus is “*God with us*”!
- “*Trusting*” or “*believing*” is the *single major* _____ sought in human beings by Jesus in John’s Gospel. The result is _____, *present tense* as well as future.

John 3: 16

- God’s *motivation* toward people is **love**.
- God’s love is **not limited** to a few or to one group of people.
- His gift is for the **whole** world.
- God’s love was expressed in the giving of His **most precious** gift—*His One and only Son.*
- On man’s side, the gift is simply to be **received**.
- A person is saved by **believing** in Christ.
- He or she will not “**perish**,” experience ruin in hell, apart from God who is life, truth and joy.
- But will experience a *new quality of life* as a *present possession* and will *possess forever*.
There is life-and-death urgency--decision for or against God’s free gift of His Son.