

Mens Breakfast Study Guide for the Sermon of Feb 13th, 2022

You Must Be Born Again

John 3:1-21

One Couldn't Help But Ask...

1. Are we to take the condition of Nicodemus' understanding of "being born again" as something the people of our time could have? Are there currently proclaimed Christians that suffer from this condition? Should we be concerned?
2. Nicodemus thought his birthright as an Israelite entitled him to see the kingdom. Jesus says he needs to be "born again", How can we tell if we are in a relationship with Jesus? Can we truly tell if we are born again? How will our "born again" status be judged for real?

Takeaways

1. In His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus shows us that he had no understanding of the biblical concept of dying to the flesh and having a spiritual rebirth brought about by God; something no one but God could do. Yet, Nicodemus represents what the world of his time would perceive as the best of mankind. A well educated and respected leader, statesman, teacher and religious man. Jesus lets us know that we can't just go through the motions of Christianity and expect to arrive in heaven.
2. Jesus says we must have this spiritual rebirth that puts the Holy spirit in control of our flesh and replaces the corrupted state we are in as a result of our fall away from God if we are to ever see the Kingdom of Heaven.
3. For all his faults, Jesus does not turn Nicodemus away. He does not require him to "clean up his act" and come back for another try. Fortunate for us who do not rise to the level of accreditation Nicodemus achieved. Jesus does not ask us to do anything other than turn to Him, believe in Him and accept Him as our savior.

Notes

This study guide is provided in the hope that others will be moved to consider the sermon, let their mind wander to questions it might raise and thoughts they wish to remember and apply to their personal life. If anyone reading the guide cares to ask a question or share their thoughts regarding the subject, please e-mail the authors at mensbreakfast@the rivercolorado.org . If you would like to participate in the building of the study guide, please let us know and we'll make provisions to have you join us via phone and/or Zoom.

1. *"If we were asked to read to a dying man who did not know the gospel, we should probably select this chapter as the most suitable one for such an occasion; and what is*

good for dying men is good for us all, for that is what we are; and how soon we may be actually at the gates of death, none of us can tell.” (Spurgeon)

2. *“A man may cast away many vices, forsake many lusts in which he indulged, and conquer evil habits, but no man in the world can make himself to be born of God; though he should struggle never so much, he could never accomplish what is beyond his power. And, mark you, if he could make himself to be born again, still he would not enter heaven, because there is another point in the condition which he would have violated — ‘unless a man be born of the Spirit , he cannot see the kingdom of God.’” (Spurgeon)*
3. Romans 2:6 God “will repay each person according to what they have done.”[a] 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.
4. Romans 2:14 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.)
5. Matthew 7:16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.