

REFLECTION

Questions

JOHN 3:1-13

- What do we learn about Nicodemus from the text (his position, timing of the visit, and words to Jesus)? How might his status as a Pharisee and member of the Jewish ruling council have shaped his expectations or spiritual understanding?
- Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus "by night"? What does this reveal about his curiosity, caution, or possible inner conflict? In what ways might we sometimes approach Jesus or spiritual truth with similar hesitation or secrecy?
- Nicodemus acknowledges Jesus as a teacher from God based on the signs/miracles. How does Jesus respond, and what does this teach us about the limitations of intellectual recognition or admiration of Jesus without deeper transformation?
- Jesus says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (v. 3). What does this statement challenge about human efforts, religious credentials, or moral goodness as a path to God?
- How does Nicodemus misunderstand Jesus' words (thinking literally of physical birth)? In what ways do we sometimes miss the spiritual meaning of biblical truths by interpreting them only on a surface or physical level?
- Jesus explains being "born of water and the Spirit" (v. 5). What do you think this means (considering themes like cleansing, new life, and the Holy Spirit's role)? How does it differ from natural birth ("flesh gives birth to flesh")?
- Reflect on your own life: Have you experienced (or can you point to) a moment or process of being "born again"? What evidence of the Spirit's work do you see in your desires, attitudes, or actions?
- Jesus emphasizes that one must be born again to "see" or "enter" the kingdom of God (vv. 3, 5). What does "seeing" the kingdom look like in everyday life? How has (or could) spiritual rebirth change your perspective on sin, grace, purpose, or eternity?
- If being born again is not something we can achieve by our own efforts, morality, or religious activity, what does that mean for how we share the gospel with others (especially those who are "good" or religious like Nicodemus)?
- How does this passage increase your awe at God's initiative in salvation? Take time to thank Him for any work of new birth in your life, or pray for that gift if you're seeking it.