

Jesus Changed My Life-Members and Seekers Need Jesus

October 17th and 20th, 2019

Scripture: John 3.1-21

John 3.1-21 (NIV)

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. **2** He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

4 “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. **6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. **7** You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ **8** The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

9 “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

10 “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? **11** Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. **12** I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? **13** No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. **14** Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, **15** that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. **19** This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. **20** Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. **21** But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Numbers 21.4-9 (NIV)

4 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; **5** they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

6 Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. **7** The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

8 The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” **9** So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Jesus Changed My Life-Members and Seekers Need Jesus

October 17th and 20th, 2019

Scripture: John 3.1-21

Read and Discuss

Introduction

In the month of October we are hearing stories of people who have had their lives completely changed by Jesus. This weekend Pastor Jacob shared Jesus' teaching about what it means to "be born again". In an encounter with a man named Nicodemus, Jesus shared this important teaching. Not that we need to make little adjustments but that we need to make ourselves available to God for an overhaul—a rebirth!

Engage the Scripture

- Read John 3.1. Nicodemus was a member of the ruling council. He was an insider. He had signed up, and was doing the things that a member does. He was a part of the body of believers. What does it mean to be a member of your local church?
- Read John 3.2-4. Nicodemus came to seek answers from Jesus under the cover of night because a member should not be a seeker. Do you see yourself as a "seeker"? Can a member also be a seeker? Explain.
- How was Nicodemus so sure that Jesus was from God? How do you see or understand Jesus' divinity? Have you seen him "perform signs"?
- Read John 3.5-9. Jesus says that we must be born again or born of the Spirit. What does that mean? Have you been born of the Spirit? (it's okay to not be sure)
- Read John 3.16-18. Even if you're new to this Jesus-thing, you might recognize some of his words here. Jesus came to save the world, and those who believe in him will live forever! What do you think Jesus meant by eternal life?
- Read 3.19-21. To come out of the darkness and into the light can be scary. Have you ever experienced a situation where the darkness seemed like a safer place to be? Jesus says that people loved the darkness instead of light. What are examples of people who seem to choose to live in the kind of darkness Jesus was talking about?
- Read Numbers 21.4-9 and John 3.10-15. What is surprising about the Numbers passage? What might Jesus be referring to when he says the Son of Man will also be lifted up (like the snake in the wilderness)? Has the thought of Jesus on the cross (and out of the empty tomb) ever caused you to feel like you will be okay—even in a life-threatening situation?

Pray

God, Help me to continually seek you in this life—and lead me to experience new life today. I want to be born of your Spirit and walk in the way of Jesus. Amen.