

SUNDAY MORNING 4 July 2021
Nicodemus - God loves the world

Jesus had many conversations with people.

In conversation with Jesus

Scripture reading

John 3: 1-21

John 3: 1

Who was Nicodemus?

- Was a Pharisee. Jews who strictly followed the laws of the Old Testament and oral tradition. The Talmud has thousands of rules and regulations that people had to follow.
- The Jewish Council or Sanhedrin consisted of 71 top leaders of the people.
- Nicodemus wonders about Jesus. Visit Him at night.

John 3: 2

- He was scared, but also searching.
- Rabbi is an important name for a teacher.
- Jesus knows what is going on in people's hearts.

John 3: 3

To be born again is the requirement of admission to the Kingdom of God.
Nicodemus read for hours in Scripture, trying to keep all the laws to the letter.
The question in his heart is "What must I do to enter the Kingdom of God?"

John 3: 4

He thinks of the physical birth and he can not see how he who a great man will be able to come back into his womb to be born.

John 3: 5

In one sentence, Jesus comes to give meaning to life. Every human being, every one of us too, must be born again from above by the Spirit.

Your first birth gives access to a life that will never end again.

Adam and Eve, disregarded the command of the Father and this led to the disturbance of the relationship between people and God.

What is needed is for God to come from above to free mankind from the hold of sin.

John 3: 14-15

The process of how to have eternal life with God.

- Such a person must be born again by the Spirit of God.
- Such a person must lay down the old life.
- Such a person must believe in Jesus, the Son of God.
- You escape eternal death and find eternal abode with God.

Probably one of the most famous verses.

John 3:16

Jesus opens the door to God's Kingdom and His heart. What do we see?

God's love

God cannot help Himself. He loves people too much, therefore He saves them from the consequences of sin.
How does He do this? God gives His only Son Jesus.

that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The key that unlocks the door to God's heart is:

that whoever believes in Him

Faith

Those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God become children of God and have received the right to enter the Kingdom of God, undeservedly, by grace.

This is what to be born again is.

And what does that mean?

Ezekiel / Ezekiel 36: 26-27

Sin makes the human spiritual heart as hard as stone and therefore a heart transplant must take place.

Do you believe it Nicodemus?

Do you believe that?

Have you ever reached that point in your life that you know, if you were to die today and you would open your eyes that you would look into the loving eyes of Jesus, within the Kingdom of God.

If you are not born again of the Spirit of God, you will not see or enter the Kingdom of God, Jesus says.

God does not want anyone to perish.

John 3: 17-18

God loves the world, and does not condemn the world.

The fact that the world does not believe condemns them.

Maybe you have experienced the rebirth. The Spirit wants you to grow spiritually as a child of God, in the image of Jesus.

When we have a new heart from God, it asks us to live like people who have new hearts.

Grateful for the new life.

Many times we push the Holy Spirit into the background.

They become mentally daring and this leads to them damaging the new heart, sometimes so badly that they end up in spiritual coma.

They are then artificially kept to the spiritual life by their church traditions and religion.

What do I hear Jesus say to Nicodemus and to us?

Someone who is born twice will only die once and that is physical death. However, someone who is only born once will die twice. Physical death and eternal death, and the Bible calls it hell.

So what then became of Nicodemus?

John 7:45b-51

He defends Jesus.

And when most of Jesus' disciples hid and fled, Nicodemus took pity on Jesus.

John 19:38-42

Now he openly chooses Jesus and He cares for the body of Jesus with myrrh and aloe and fragrance oil. He wrapped Himself in cloths and in the garden.

Tears run down Amanda's cheeks, Hennie would have been 37 years old today. She could still hear the screaming tires and the crash, and then the silence. She thinks back to the days next to his bed in the hospital and the nightmare decision to switch off the live support.

She still hears as if it was yesterday how the hospital silence is broken by the loud sound of a helicopter that landed on the roof of the hospital. She knows the moment is here, they have come to fetch Hennie's organs. Who are the people who are going to live because Hennie died, she wonders?

In another hospital, Derek fights for his life. His defective heart can no longer. He could not describe the feeling when the nurse told him: "we've got a heart". His emotions were all over the place. He feels so guilty because he knows someone had to die so he could live.

Just before they came to fetch him, Linda and he prayed together, they did not know if he would survive the operation. Just before he left, she kissed his old heart goodbye and surrendered the outcome to God.

For 18 months Amanda has been wondering how the donor of Hennie's heart is doing and she now feels ready to meet the person. When she started inquiring earlier, she heard that Derek and Linda had been signing documents a long time ago, that said they would like to meet the donor's family. They had written to Amanda twice already, but she was not yet ready to meet them. But today on Hennie's birthday she's right.

Derek almost choked on his tears when he answered the phone and he heard it was Amanda. When Amanda asked, "When can we meet?" his answer immediately without thinking, was: "In an hour at Romano's Pizza House."

An hour later, Amanda is there and she put her head on Derek's chest and hears the heart beating that she has loved and missed so long. Derek lives because he has Hennie's heart in him.

How is your relationship with God?

If God puts His ear on your spiritual chest, whose heart will He hear beating? Jesus' or yours? Without the new Jesus heart we are lost, but with the Jesus heart Jesus himself says we have eternal life.

You alone will know.