

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;

- Pharisees definition: Rule keepers
- Sanhedrin definition: Ruler of Jews - Top 70 Jews in all the land. Big shots

2 this man came to Jesus at night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

- Nicodemus:
 - Came at night... why?
 - Called Jesus Rabbi... why?
 - Said Jesus was from God... why?
- LESSON/ WARNING: We can be religious and NOT born again!
- LESSON/ WARNING: You can see Jesus' power, and NOT be born again! Yikes!

3 Jesus responded and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

- Repetition is bible's way of UNDERLINING! very important... pay attention!
- Truly can be translated as truly, "Verily" or its direct Greek word is Amen.
- We place the word *amen* at the end of a statement as a way of, agreeing, or endorsing it.
- Jesus frequently said "Amen" ("Truly") to preface a statement. "Leading off with amen not only implies that what follows is true but also that the person making the statement has firsthand knowledge and authority about it"

4 Nicodemus *said to Him, "How can a person be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother's womb a second time and be born, can he?"

- Nicodemus responds with an earthly "fleshly" response...

5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which has been born of the flesh is flesh, and that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit.

- Water symbolizes baptism and forgiveness
- Spirit symbolizes us as the temple, the Holy Spirit coming to dwell IN us.
- "Jesus is LORD and SAVIOR"
 - We like the Savior part
 - We don't like the "Lord" part

7 Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it is coming from and where it is going; so is everyone who has been born of the Spirit."

- With the Spirit IN us... HE leads, HE is king, HIS will be done.
- THAT is what it means to be Born Again. It's not just about us... it's ALL about HIM!

9 Nicodemus responded and said to Him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered and said to him, "You are the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you people do not accept our testimony. 12 If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven, except He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.

- you are the teacher and you don't understand? Oh man! Let ME teach you...
- Nick should have known this from **Ezekiel 36:26-27**
- this is a transition verse into WHO Jesus is and what his mission on earth was.
- **Son of Man** - Reference from the Messiah description from **Daniel 7:13-14**

14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 so that everyone who believes will have eternal life in Him.

- Reference to Numbers 21: people impatient and angry and spoke against God and Moses
- God sent venomous snakes to bite them!
- Snakes represented Sin and death for our disobedience
- the Bronze serpent lifted on a pole represented the saving and healing the Jesus would bring when HE was lifted up onto a pole. That whoever looks at him would be (Saved)
- medical symbol for healing is the snake on a pole!

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.

- THE WORLD... This Kingdom was not ONLY for the Jews, but for ALL
- God GAVE his only son. A pure sacrifice was required and none of US could do it.
- Everyone who believes, who looks to Jesus in Faith WILL be healed and receive salvation
- LESSON: Being Born Again is NOT an option
- LESSON: Both the wayward sinner and the righteous pharisee MUST be Born again.

Skip ahead to verse 19...

19 And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light; for their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light, so that his deeds will not be exposed. 21 But the one who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds will be revealed as having been performed in God."

Jesus is the Light of the world!
He exposes darkness, and brings us into HIS light,
HIS life, HIS redemption, HIS forgiveness,
and into HIS kingdom for HIS purposes.

Further study: Watch "The Chosen" Season 1 episode 7 and 8 for a visual of this encounter! it's pretty great!