

## Gospel of John 2:23 – 3:15

New American Standard Version

1 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover,  
2 during the feast, many believed in His name,  
3 observing His signs which He was doing. But Jesus,  
4 on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for  
5 He knew all men, and because He did not need  
6 anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself  
7 knew what was in man. Now there was a man of  
8 the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the  
9 Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to  
10 Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God  
11 as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You  
12 do unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said  
13 to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born  
14 again he cannot see the kingdom of God."  
15 Nicodemus \*said to Him, "How can a man be born  
16 when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into  
17 his mother's womb and be born, can he?" Jesus  
18 answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is  
19 born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the  
20 kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is  
21 flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.  
22 Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be  
23 born again.' The wind blows where it wishes and you  
24 hear the sound of it, but do not know where it  
25 comes from and where it is going; so is everyone  
26 who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to Him,  
27 "How can these things be?" Jesus answered and said  
28 to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not  
29 understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you,  
30 we speak of what we know and testify of what we  
31 have seen, and you do not accept our testimony. If I  
32 told you earthly things and you do not believe, how  
33 will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one  
34 has ascended into heaven, but He who descended  
35 from heaven: the Son of Man. As Moses lifted up the  
36 serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of  
37 Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in  
38 Him have eternal life.

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***Make notes of what questions come to mind as you read the text.***

***Mark the following features in the text:***

***Circle*** words or phrases that are repeated. Does that help you see connections in the passage?

How would you describe Jesus' responses to Nicodemus? Use one word to describe each part of the interchange between Nicodemus and Jesus:

l.10-11 Nicodemus: \_\_\_\_\_

l.13-14 Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_

l.15-17 Nicodemus: \_\_\_\_\_

l.18-26 Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_

l.26-27 Nicodemus: \_\_\_\_\_

l.28-38 Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_

Imagine the conversation if Nicodemus came to you and said, "We know Jesus came from God as a teacher, for no one could do the signs He did unless God was with Him." What might your response be?

How does your message and your way of relating to another person compare with how Jesus communicated? What changes might make your communication more like His?

What questions from the beginning of the study are more clear after more time in the passage? Which ones are not?

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Questions for further thinking:

- *What is the connection (if any) between the opening of this passage in lines 1-7 and the encounter with Nicodemus?*
- *What does Jesus mean by “water and Spirit?” (“Spirit” seems clear, but what about “water?”)*
- *Why does Jesus change metaphors, from “born” to “wind?” How are the two images connected, if they are?*
- *How might this encounter be a model for us as we share with others? What might not be an example for us to follow?*
- *What kind of response might Nicodemus have been expecting when he first greeted Jesus? What was it like to have a conversation with Jesus?*
- *What title does Jesus use to describe Himself? Does that sound familiar? Look back at John 1:51. How are Jesus’ statements similar and different?*
- *If you were (are?) a gentile reader unfamiliar with Jewish history, what would you make of Jesus’ words at the end of the passage?*