



John 3:1-10, 16
Ryan Pfeiffer

Encountering Jesus: Nicodemus

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What comes to mind when you think of the word “ENCOUNTER”?

An Experiences that produce UNEXPECTED PERSPECTIVE SHIFTS.

JESUS—

Watching others encounter Jesus: Religious, crooks, addicts, and prostitutes, working class and aristocrats... men, women, demons. People who are curious/earnest, desperate/determined, irreverent and even skeptical.

By finding our place in the story— THEY HELP US RESPOND—

REFLECT— What is Jesus saying to you?

RESPOND— With openness, curiosity, and FAITH.

JOHN 3:1-10, 16.

Jesus RADICALLY turns Nicodemus’ world upside down:

Vs 3 Truly I tell you, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born again.

What does Jesus mean by being BORN AGAIN?

VS 5... no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and Spirit.

FOCUS: There are TWO layers of meaning to BEING BORN AGAIN. **WATER & SPIRIT.** Understanding these TWO layers will help us respond in faith to Jesus.

FIRST LAYER: WATER. The willingness to see things differently.

WATER= BAPTISM.

Luke 7:30 But the Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.

Mark 1:4 describes John’s baptism as “**a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.**”

John’s baptism was about repentance: WATER= BAPTISM= REPENTANCE

Nicodemus and the other Pharisees had rejected this call to REPENT.

REPENTANCE is about responding with humility and trust to Jesus’ way of seeing things.

Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” —Mark 1.15

There is no believing without repenting. Repenting clears the way for a new belief.

Nicodemus represents that prideful part of us that struggles to let go of how we already see things in favor of how Jesus sees things.

Where Jesus' view doesn't make sense with our current view.

This has to happen throughout our entire life with Jesus...

To be BORN AGAIN: means to be CHANGED in the way we see EVERYTHING. finances... purpose... relationships... identity...

SECOND LAYER: SPIRIT. SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

VS 6. **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.**

Vs 8 **The wind blows wherever it pleases... So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.**

When we are willing to change... to repent... something new can begin in us.

Repentance clears the way for God's Spirit to move in our life.

Repentance alone doesn't change us... It's God's spirit that changes us in the deepest way possible.

We all have this deep need to change... to grow... to evolve... to better ourselves. Our efforts alone are cosmetic at best... Jesus calls "**Flesh gives birth to Flesh**"

It's Jesus' Spirit coming into our life that TRANSFORMS US... "**Spirit gives birth to Spirit.**"

BEING BORN AGAIN is about becoming a NEW CREATION.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

When we are willing to let go of the OLD — the NEW can come.