

 Part 2: The Educated Encounter

*John 3:1-21 (The Voice) “Nicodemus was one of the Pharisees, a man with some clout among his people. 2He came to Jesus under the cloak of darkness to question Him.*

***Nicodemus:*** *Teacher, some of us have been talking. You are obviously a teacher who has come from God. The signs You are doing are proof that God is with You.*

***Jesus:*** *3I tell you the truth: only someone who experiences birth for a second time can hope to see the kingdom of God.*

***Nicodemus:*** *4I am a grown man. How can someone be born again when he is old like me? Am I to crawl back into my mother’s womb for a second birth? That’s impossible!*

***Jesus:*** *5I tell you the truth, if someone does not experience water and Spirit birth, there’s no chance he will make it into God’s kingdom. 6Like from like. Whatever is born from flesh is flesh; whatever is born from Spirit is spirit. 7Don’t be shocked by My words, but I tell you the truth. Even you, an educated and respected man among your people, must be reborn by the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God. 8The wind[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+3%3A1-21&version=VOICE#fen-VOICE-25352b)*] blows all around us as if it has a will of its own; we feel and hear it, but we do not understand where it has come from or where it will end up. Life in the Spirit is as if it were the wind of God.*

***Nicodemus:*** *9I still do not understand how this can be.*

***Jesus:*** *10Your responsibility is to instruct Israel in matters of faith, but you do not comprehend the necessity of life in the Spirit? 11I tell you the truth: we speak about the things we know, and we give evidence about the things we have seen, and you choose to reject the truth of our witness. 12If you do not believe when I talk to you about ordinary, earthly realities, then heavenly realities will certainly elude you. 13No one has ever journeyed to heaven above except the One who has come down from heaven—the Son of Man, who is of heaven. 14Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness. In the same way, the Son of Man must be lifted up; 15then all those who believe in Him will experience everlasting life.*

*16For God expressed His love for the world in this way: He gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him will not face everlasting destruction, but will have everlasting life. 17Here’s the point. God didn’t send His Son into the world to judge it; instead, He is here to rescue a world headed toward certain destruction.*

*Because the Light, sent from God, pierced through the world’s darkness to expose ill motives, hatred, gossip, greed, violence, and the like. Still some people preferred the darkness over the light because their actions were dark. 20Some of humankind hated the light. They scampered hurriedly back into the darkness where vices thrive and wickedness flourishes. 21Those who abandon deceit and embrace what is true, they will enter into the light where it will be clear that all their deeds come from God.”*

*John 9:4-5 “We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”*

*John 11:9-10 “Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”*

* Allow your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to bring you into the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 18:1-5 (The Voice) “Around that same time, the disciples came to Jesus and questioned Him about the kingdom of heaven.*

***A Disciple:*** *In the kingdom of heaven, who is the greatest?*

*2Jesus called over a little child. He put His hand on the top of the child’s head.*

***Jesus:*** *3This is the truth: unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4In that kingdom, the most humble who are most like this child are the greatest. 5And whoever welcomes a child, welcomes her in My name, welcomes Me.”*

*John 3:19-21(The Message) ““This is the crisis we’re in: God-light streamed into the world, but men and women everywhere ran for the darkness. They went for the darkness because they were not really interested in pleasing God. Everyone who makes a practice of doing evil, addicted to denial and illusion, hates God-light and won’t come near it, fearing a painful exposure. But anyone working and living in truth and reality welcomes God-light so the work can be seen for the God-work it is.”*

*Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*

* We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*John 7:47-52 “The Pharisees answered them, “Have you also been deceived?...**Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, 51“Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?” 52They replied, “Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee.”*

*John 19:38-42 “After all this, Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple who kept his faith a secret for fear of the Jewish officials, made a request to Pilate for the body of Jesus. Pilate granted his request, and Joseph retrieved the body. 39Nicodemus, who first came to Jesus under the cloak of darkness, brought over 100 pounds of myrrh and ointments for His burial. 40Together, they took Jesus’ body and wrapped Him in linens soaked in essential oils and spices, according to Jewish burial customs.41Near the place He was crucified, there was a garden with a newly prepared tomb. 42Because it was the day of preparation, they arranged to lay Jesus in this tomb so they could rest on the Sabbath.”*

*John 19:28-30 “Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” 29A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. 30When he had received the drink, Jesus said,* ***“It is finished.”*** *With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”*

*Answers and order:*

*John 3:1-21*

*Slide one*

*John 11:9-10*

*Slide two*

*-allow your night to bring you into the light*

*-we receive the life of Christ*

*John 19:38-42*

*Slide three*

*John 19:28-30*

*Communion – put up slide three again*