



John 3:1-8

11/18/18 PM

ENCOUNTER WITH NICODEMUS

Introduction:

I. NICODEMUS COMES AT NIGHT

A. His Credentials (vs. 1)

“a man of the Pharisees”

“a ruler of the Jews”

“a teacher in Israel” (vs. 10)

must have been wealthy

B. His Confession (vs. 2)

“this man came to Jesus by night”

“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”

C. His Confusion (vs. 4)

“How can a man be born when he is old?”

“He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”

c.f. His Conclusion (vs. 16-21; 7:50; 19:39)

II. JESUS CLOSES THE FIGHT

A. His Command (vs. 3)

“Truly, truly, I say to you...”

“unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God”

“To a Jew with the background and convictions of Nicodemus, ‘to see the kingdom of God’ was to participate in the kingdom at the end of the age, to experience eternal, resurrection life.... Predominant religious thought in Jesus’ day affirmed that all Jews would be admitted to that kingdom apart from those guilty of deliberate apostasy or extraordinary wickedness.... But here was Jesus telling Nicodemus, a respected and conscientious member not only of Israel but of the Sanhedrin, that he cannot enter the kingdom unless he is *born again....*”
D.A. Carson

B. His Clarification (vs. 5-8)

“unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

A person is born again when the Spirit of God uses the Word of God to produce faith and imparts the new nature when the person believes.

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

“Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”

“The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going.”

- “so is everyone who is born of the Spirit”