



*Schooling Nicodemus, John 3:9-15*

## Schooling Nicodemus

- What does it mean to “get schooled”?
  - It is referring to showing someone up or beating them in a game very badly usually after some trash talking
- Nicodemus summary
  - A very religious, highly respected Jewish teacher and Pharisee came to Jesus with questions
  - He had been taught by the best, deeply educated in Jewish history and the Law
  - He was a prominent leader that sat in the position of judge in deciding issues within his community

## Schooling Nicodemus

- **John 3:3 AMP**, 3 Jesus answered him, “I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless a person is born again [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified], he cannot [ever] see and experience the kingdom of God.”
- **John 3:5-6 AMP**, 5 Jesus answered, “I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot [ever] enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh [the physical is merely physical], and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

## Schooling Nicodemus

- **John 3:9 NIV**, “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.
- Nicodemus thought he had all the answers, knew the ways of God, trusted in his own righteousness
- He was about to be schooled by Jesus

## Jesus begins with a challenge

- **John 3:10 AMP**, 10 Jesus replied, “You are the [great and well-known] teacher of Israel, and yet you do not know nor understand these things [from Scripture]?”
  - Can you not understand what I’ve just said from the Scriptures you claim to know so well, from Israel’s own history Nicodemus?
  - Have you seen this illustrated anywhere else in Jewish history?

## The schooling

- Nicodemus, where did God find the nation of Israel?
  - In slavery, bondage to Egypt without any way to free themselves
  - In a corrupt society with false gods, hardships you have not experienced and a hatred for the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
  - The only hope they had Nicodemus was a promise given by God to Abraham

## The schooling

- Nicodemus, where did God find the nation of Israel?
  - **Genesis 15:13-14 NIV**, 13 Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.”
  - Did this happen Nicodemus? How? God did it.

## The schooling

- What did God do?
  - He sent them a deliverer named Moses to lead them out of captivity into the Promised Land
  - He spoke to God directly, saw heavenly things that made his face glow, He interceded for you, he brought you God's way to be accepted and live blessed
  - **Deuteronomy 18:15 NIV**, "15 The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him."



## The schooling

- Moses led them out to where they had the sea in front and tormentors/enslavers behind threatening to drag you back, remove any hope of freedom
- What did God do then Nicodemus?
  - The Holy Spirit opened a way through the sea, and Israel passed through the water into freedom
  - Israel past through the waters of repentance leaving behind the things of Egypt and grasping the things of God
  - Israel became a nation in a single day through the water and the Spirit

## The schooling

- Israel fought, struggled, and complained with God, but He never let loose of His promise to Abraham and He brought them all the way into the Promised Land
- This was a sign to you Nicodemus how God would bring people into His Kingdom, you must be born from above by way of water and Spirit

## Jesus is not done with the schooling of Nicodemus

- Who was Jesus to Nicodemus?
- **John 3:10-13 AMP**, “11 I assure you and most solemnly say to you, we (*Who is the we?*) speak only of what we [absolutely] know and testify about what we have [actually] seen [as eyewitnesses]; and [still] you [reject our evidence and] do not accept our testimony. 12 If I told you (*Who is the you?*) earthly things [that is, things that happen right here on earth] and you do not believe, how will you believe and trust Me if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has gone up into heaven, but there is One who came down from heaven, the Son of Man [Himself—whose home is in heaven].”

## Jesus is not done with the schooling of Nicodemus

- But there is One who came down from heaven, the Son of Man
  - Nic I wasn't just a cute baby in a manger
  - I wasn't just a gifted child of Mary and Joseph
  - I wasn't just a child of a king
  - I'm not just a miracle worker or thoughtful teacher

## Jesus is not done with the schooling of Nicodemus

- But there is One who came down from heaven, the Son of Man
  - I came down from heaven to provide a way so you can rise up to heaven
  - I existed in the beginning, I was with God, and I was God (*John 1:1*)
  - I became flesh and made my dwelling with you (*John 1:5*)
  - I am the glory of God in human form (*John 1:5*)
  - With My authority I'm telling you Nicodemus you must be born again, born from above to see the Kingdom of Heaven
  - Who is Jesus to you?

## Jesus answers another question Nicodemus should be asking

- “How can I be born from above?”
  - **John 3:14-15 NIV**, “14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”
  - **Numbers 21:4 NIV**, 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

## Jesus answers another question Nicodemus should be asking

- “How can I be born from above?”
  - **Numbers 21:6-7 NIV**, 6 Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.
  - **Numbers 21:8-9 NIV**, 8 The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” 9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

## Jesus answers another question Nicodemus should be asking

- Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.
  - Was this a magical bronze snake?
  - Was it the bronze snake that brought the healing?
  - The healer was God Almighty keeping his promise, “anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.”
  - It didn’t make sense to them
  - They did not have it all figured out
  - There was only one way to be healed from the snake bite



## Jesus answers another question Nicodemus should be asking

- Notice what Jesus said, “14 The Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may (*will*) have eternal life in him.”
  - Will be born again/from above
  - We have been snake bit with sin, and we are dying, society is dying, our children are dying, creation is dying and there is only one hope, only one cure
  - All who look to the cross of Jesus believing have eternal life by being born again

## Jesus answers another question Nicodemus should be asking

- **John 12:32 NIV**, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”
  - This is what Jesus is doing this morning in this place – drawing you to himself
  - There is only one way to eternal life, being born again/from above and that is through the cross of Jesus Christ
  - Look to it in faith and be saved



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