

WHO IS JESUS?

JOHN 3:1-8

JESUS IS OUR MIDWIFE



FIRST BYRON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

Which is the odd one out? "I must call my Mom" "I must get to that office meeting." "I must lose weight." "I must get my finances organized." "I must get into that college." "I must be born again." "I must win that game."

It's "Why must I be born again?" isn't it. Why is it the odd one out? Because the vast majority do not see it as a 'Must.' All the other 'Musts' are common and are heard thousands of times every day. But, "I must be born again" is a rare must; indeed it's almost extinct. This, despite it being the most important and urgent of all Musts.

Why is this the most important and urgent of all the 'Musts'? **"Why must I be born again?"** That's the question Jesus answers in John 3:1-8.

BACKGROUND

- Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1-2)
- Jesus is our Creator (1:3)
- Jesus is our Light and Life (1:4-9)
- Jesus is our Big Brother (1:10-13)
- Jesus is our Tabernacle (1:14-17).
- Jesus is our Preacher (1:18)
- Jesus is the Messiah (1:19-28)
- Jesus is our Sacrifice (1:29)
- Jesus is our Rabbi (1:35-46)
- Jesus is our Ladder (1:46-51)
- Jesus is our Wine (2:1-12)
- Jesus is our Temple (2:13-21)
- Jesus is our Midwife (John 3:1-8).



1. YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN TO SEE GOD'S KINGDOM (1-3)

Physical birth gives physical sight

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night (1-2).

Nicodemus was the elite of the elite. An elite Jew (a Pharisee), an elite Senator (a ruler of the Jews), and an elite professor (the teacher of Israel). He came to Jesus in the dark because he was afraid to be seen with Jesus in the light. It might damage his elite status.

[He] said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him" (1-2).

Nicodemus told Jesus that he had been observing him, and had come to certain conclusions about what he'd seen. "I see you are a teacher come from God, I see you do great miracles, and I see that God is with you." Nicodemus saw a lot but he didn't see everything.

Spiritual birth gives spiritual sight

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (3).

Jesus interrupts Nicodemus to tell him that there's one thing he cannot see with his physical eyes, and that is the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is God's reign beginning in the heart and climaxing in heaven. You can look, and look, and look, but without the new birth you will never see God's powerful, beautiful, and glorious reign in the heart or in heaven. You need spiritual sight to see that, and you cannot have spiritual sight without spiritual birth.

Jesus introduces this truth with "Truly, truly" an expression to underline the absolute certainty of his words. Without the new birth, you will never see God's kingdom below or above.

CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH GOD'S STORY

Ask for new eyes. Do you ever wonder why you're not that excited about King Jesus and his Kingdom. You see people that are excited and fascinated with the Bible, and Jesus, Christian mission, and Christian service. It leaves you cold. Why? You cannot see what they are seeing. You need new eyes that only come with new birth. You don't know what you are missing out on. You will know one day when you miss out not only on earth but on heaven.

Rejoice in your new eyes. If you see the Kingdom of God, celebrate! God's given you new eyes by giving you new birth. He's given you spiritual sight through spiritual birth. You see the kingdom here and you'll see it hereafter.

PHYSICAL EYES CANNOT SEE SPIRITUAL BEAUTY
SPIRITUAL EYES CAN'T SEE ENOUGH SPIRITUAL BEAUTY



Can I do more than see the Kingdom?
Yes, you can also enter it.



2. YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN TO ENTER GOD'S KINGDOM (4-5)

Physical birth comes from a physical womb

Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (4).

Physical birth requires a physical womb. Nicodemus therefore heard about the need to be born again and immediately thought about his mother's womb. "You mean, I need to shrink myself down, climb into my mother's womb, and be born again?"

Spiritual birth comes from a spiritual womb

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God (5).

The fact that Jesus again began his answer with "Truly, truly" indicates that Nicodemus's question was skeptical, if not mocking. Jesus was basically saying, "I'm dead serious about this. I'm telling you the truth." Jesus pointed him to another womb, the womb of water and Spirit. Water cleanses the outward and the Spirit the inward (Ezek. 36:25-27). We need inward cleansing as well as outward cleansing

"Nicodemus," said Jesus, "You need to get into a spiritual womb for spiritual life. If you want to enter a new world, you need a new womb." Our first birth brings us into this world; we need the second birth to bring us into another world.

CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH GOD'S STORY

Ask for a new womb for a new world? If you want to enter God's kingdom now, and know its power in your life, you need a spiritual womb to give you spiritual life. Also, you cannot enter the kingdom of God in heaven if you haven't been born again.

Rejoice in entering a new world from a new womb. If you've entered God's kingdom, if you know the powerful reign of God in your life, it's only because God birthed you. To paraphrase the angel's words to Mary in Luke 1:35, "The Holy Spirit has come upon you, and the power of the Most High has overshadowed you; therefore what is born in you will be called holy—the Kingdom of God."

ENTER THE KINGDOM HERE TO
ENTER THE KINGDOM HEREAFTER



**Do I just get to enter God's kingdom?
No, you also get to live in it.**



3. YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN TO LIVE IN GOD'S KINGDOM (6)

Physical birth gives physical life

That which is born of the flesh is flesh... (6).

Physical life comes from physical life. Flesh is involved in the production of flesh. Bodies produce a body. The most that our parents can do for us is give us physical life.

Spiritual birth give spiritual life

...and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (6).

Spiritual life can only come from spiritual life. Spirit is required for the production of spirit. Spirit produces spirit. If you want spirit you need Spirit. If you want the kingdom of God within you, you need the Spirit of God within you.

CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH GOD'S STORY

Don't be surprised at your need of new birth. "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again'" (7). A lot of people are as surprised as Nicodemus was. Jesus says to us as he said to him, "Don't be surprised. If you knew your Bible and your heart, you'd say, 'Of course, this is the biggest must in the world.'" If the weight of this must is alarming you, remember Jesus is our midwife. Just as he was ready and willing to birth Nicodemus into spiritual life, he's ready, willing, and eager to birth you today. Ask him to be your midwife.

Be surprised at your new birth. "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" (8). If I'm born again, it should stun me. It should surprise me. It should be a cause of wonder and astonishment. Why did the wind of the Spirit blow into my life and give me spiritual life without any contribution from me or anyone else.

MOST DON'T SEE THIS MUST
BUT THIS MUST IS FOR ALL



SUMMARY



PRAYER: Life giver, I praise you for my new birth which brings your kingdom into my life and me into your kingdom. Bring other dead sinners to life. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is this most important 'must' so much ignored or neglected?
2. What does the new birth help you to see of God's kingdom?
3. How do we tell the blind what it's like to see, and what they are missing?
4. Who most is likely to get upset at Jesus' teaching on the new birth?
5. What are the signs of living in God's kingdom?
6. In what way does Jesus act as our midwife?

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