

The Challenge 6th in the "Life in his Name?" Series

John 3:1-21, p. 887 October 7, 2018 Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction In this passage God explains why his love for the world required the giving of his Son (John 3:16)		
The Text: John 3:1-21		
1)	Introducing the Challenger: Nicodemus (v. 1).	
2)		
2)	The Challenge: Nicodemus vs. Jesus (vv. 2-15).	
2)		
3)	The Explanation: Commentary by the Narrator (vv. 16-21).	
4)	The Response of Nicodemus (7:50-52 and 19:38-42)	
4)	The Response of Nicodemus (7.30-32 and 19.38-42)	

Response:

This passage of Scripture speaks into our lives in three ways:

- Like Nicodemus, we too challenge God with our attitude and sin.
- The love of God is not abstract but personal, displayed in the gracious ministry of Jesus.
- The love of God is received in a "new birth" that is by grace and through faith.

Sunday Text Questions for John 3:1-21

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1)	Starter Question: How might our attitudes and behaviors challenge or offend our Holy God?
2)	Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
3)	Was Jesus too tough on Nicodemus? How does Jesus' dialogue with Nicodemus reflect both grace and truth?
4)	What does Jesus mean when he says a person must be born again (v. 3)?
5)	Jesus explains in vv. 5-8 that to be "born again" is to be "born of the Spirit." How do you think the Holy Spirit is involved in the conversion (salvation) of a Christian?
6)	When Jesus says he, the Son of Man, "must be lifted up" (v. 15), he is talking about his death for us. How is Jesus death on the cross essential to our salvation?
7)	How does John 3:1-15 set the context for the explanation given in John 3:16 (especially when it is rightly translated as "For in this way God loved the world, that he gave")?
8)	Both v. 15 and v. 16 speak about the Christian having "eternal life." What is the "eternal life" Jesus provides?
9)	According to v. 18, how does every person either have God as their Savior or God as their Judge? Why might this fact be important for how we think about and relate to non-Christians?
10)	How does this passage of Scripture give us truths to believe or actions to obey?

Further study this week: Numbers 21:4-9 on the bronze serpent (Mon); Ezekiel 26:22-38 on the promised work of the Spirit (Tues); Ezekiel 37 on the promise of "born again" (Wed); John 7:37-52 on Nicodemus' turn toward Jesus (Thurs); John 19:38-42 on Nicodemus' public commitment to Jesus (Fri).