

## Nicodemus - Part 2

Fathers' Day: June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005

1). Joh 3:1 ¶ *There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and 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." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 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?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?*

a). Review from last week

2). .*" 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

a). It is without doubt that no one who is not 'born again' could possibly see, have understanding of the Kingdom of God. Things surrounding the Kingdom are spiritual truths that may only be discerned by those who are spiritually alive – those who have moved from eternal death to eternal life by faith in the death and shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

b). What we now need to do is to see this statement made by Jesus beyond the initial experience of the salvation of the spirit.

c). Being born again or born from above with respect to the salvation of our spirit is a one time event that never has to be repeated. We have moved eternally from death to life and this can never be reversed nor does it ever have to be repeated - Ro 6:10a *For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all;*

d). The salvation of the spirit is based on death and shed blood alone. Beyond that however is a continuing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives Based on Christ's resurrection.

e). 1Pe 1:3 ¶ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

I/ Please note we are born again to a living hope, based on events related to His resurrection, not His death.

Ii/ Ro 5:1 ¶ *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.*

Iii/ Note the transition

‘having been justified by faith’ – the salvation of the spirit – resulting in ‘peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ’

Also through ‘our Lord Jesus Christ’ we have access by faith, a faith after our justification, that relates to the ‘hope of the glory of God’

Notice – tribulation produces perseverance – perseverance/Character – character/hope. This hope then only comes with maturity as we are trained, tried and tested and is a result of the continuing work of the Holy Spirit, Who through process causes us to be ‘begotten’ – born from above in relation to this hope.

3). We should not be surprised by this as this is exactly what we see in the foundation laid out for us in Genesis Chapter 1. In order to restore the ruined physical creation God works through 6 days leading into a 7<sup>th</sup> day when the creation is fully restored. Day 1 would correspond to ‘born from above’ salvation of the spirit experience. There are then another 5 days of work by the Spirit – from above. Bringing God’s work to completion.

a). In the same way He is working to restore another fallen creation, Man, in the same process represented by the original 6 days. And this continues to be in us a work from above, by the Holy Spirit in preparation for the 7<sup>th</sup> day

4). This is what Jesus alludes to in - Joh 6:44 *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.* (Teach this in terms of the message and those the message was for)

Re 3:20 *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*

*Joh 6:65 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."*

Exactly what we read in Hebrews - Heb 6:1 ¶ *Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits.*

a). We see a great example of this in action - Mt 16:13 ¶ *When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say (the world say) that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but **My Father who is in heaven.** 18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

b). This did not come from the knowledge of this world, but from above – the ‘Father in Heaven’

5). This ‘from above’ process is exactly what we find in - Ro 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world [‘age’], but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove[‘that you may learn by experience’] what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

a). ‘Conformed’ = sunschematizō = outline or diagram[your life in accordance with the present age]

b). ‘Transformed’ = metamorphōō = metamorphosis = an inward change brought about completely apart from the power of the individual

c). The way it happens = ‘renewing’ = anakainosis = a renewing process which is to keep on taking place.

d). 2Co 4:16 *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*

I/ Note the dying of the man of flesh and the daily renewing of the inward man.

ii/ Lu 9:23 *Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*

*1Co 15b:..... I die daily.*

iii/ Daily death requires daily resurrection to walk in newness of life. Something that is only in the power of the Spirit, which comes from above – ‘that which is born of the Spirit is spirit’

e). Col 3:10 *and have put on the new man who is renewed[lit. 'is being renewed'] in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,*

i/ Renewed in knowledge. Knowledge = epignosis = mature knowledge = that relating to the Christ, the Son of God, the inheritance, the Melchizedek priesthood, the coming Kingdom. Which can only come through the Word of God.

f). This is the ‘living hope’ we are begotten to, from above, of 1 Peter 1:3, which only comes if ‘God permits’ - Joh 6:65 *And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."*

6). Let’s remember - Jas 1:21 *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

Ro 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Eph 5:18 *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*

Col 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

7). Now this brings us to where we need to be for this Fathers’ Day

a). 1Co 4:15 *For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. 16 Therefore I urge you, imitate me.*

b). There was great immaturity in the Church in Corinth witnessed by the ten thousand instructors = pedagogos = boy teachers

c). There was a need for ‘fathers’

d). What identified Paul as a father is the presentation of the gospel of the glory of Christ that would bring about the continuing process of being ‘born from above’

e). His exhortation to the men in Corinth – ‘I urge you, imitate me.’

8). Now in order to imitate him as a father in relation to the gospel they would need to submit themselves to the renewing, ‘from above process’ bringing about a transformation in their lives.

9). One of the greatest hinderances to this that our enemy has exploited in Christian husbands and fathers is blindness to our God given role and responsibility

10). 1Ti 3:1 ¶ *This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.*

1Ti 3:4 *one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence 5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);*

a). Although this scripture is directed specifically at those who would be Elders there is a principle here that is applicable to all men – those who are married now and those who will be in the future. The key is in v5 - *(for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);* And according to our scripture the church needs men, as fathers, of proven integrity and character because of the enormity of the events surrounding our inheritance in the land of our calling.

b). Now ruling our own house well, does not signify perfection and an absence of problems or an authoritarian regime, but it does signify a house ruled in accordance with the Word and can only be achieved if the husband is walking in his God commanded role, fulfilling his God commanded responsibility.

I/ ‘Rule’ = proistemi = to stand before / maintain / be over

c). And herein is the major problem in respect of Christian men. No one is teaching role and responsibility. Many husbands and fathers are walking contrary to God’s commands, out of ignorance, but nevertheless placing themselves in sin. And nothing gets in the way of the work of the Spirit as much as sin.

d). Ps 133:1 ¶ <<A Song of Ascents. Of David.>> *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.*

e). Note the anointing oil is poured on the head first – if the head is out of alignment there is nowhere for the oil to flow.

f). Eph 5:22 *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For **the husband is head of the wife**, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 **Husbands, love your wives**, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.* – Teach this. Cf. The picture of marriage and what it points to. In respect of why the role and responsibility are important and the obvious reason for deception in this area.

11). The role of head is not optional, negotiable or conditional. The moment we say ‘I do’ we become ‘head’ in God’s eyes. If any father is going to be more than just the means for procreating children, he must be husband, according to God’s commandment, first.

a). Remember, disobedience through unbelief impacts our inheritance.

b). Remember this role and responsibility are part of the works that will be tried at the Judgment Seat.

12). We are going to make sure that we are covered in this by teaching on the roles and responsibilities within marriage at a special seminar at the beginning of August.

13). As for today – for all our men – young and old, married and single. Will you today commit to allowing your mind to be renewed, to be born from above with respect to the role and responsibility of the husband as you are taught it?