

# John

## Chapter 3

**FAITH COMES BY HEARING:** Read Chapter Three

### **SUMMARY: Verses 1-36**

1. Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a member of the Jewish ruling council approaches Jesus.
2. The Pharisees were a religious sect that held to strict adherence to Old Testament law and often were seen as holding a right standing with God based on their own merits and religious efforts.
3. Nicodemus is intrigued by Jesus because he views Jesus as a religious teacher who possesses extraordinary powers and authority to work miracles. Nicodemus equates these miracles as Jesus having to have come from God.
4. Jesus immediately introduces Nicodemus to principle of the kingdom of God. Jesus states you only get entrance into the kingdom by being born again.
5. This 'born again' concept is foreign to Nicodemus. He was familiar with legalistic principles but not spiritual principles.
6. Jesus begins to explain to Nicodemus how the Kingdom of God operates. To be born again is to be born of God's Spirit. Born again is not following religious rules. Born again is looking unto Jesus as your sacrifice for sin's penalty.
7. Entrance into God's kingdom is possible for anyone. Because it's not based on rules but Jesus' righteousness anyone has the same right to be part of God's kingdom.
8. Jesus tells Nicodemus that the world is already condemned. They are condemned not because they are evil. They are condemned because they don't believe on Jesus. To be condemned is to be separated from God's life. Jesus is letting Nicodemus know that rules don't make you right with God. It's only being born again that grants entrance into God's kingdom.
9. To be born again means to live the truth.
10. Jesus baptized some of His disciples. John the Baptist's disciples get jealous about what Jesus is doing baptizing people. John reminds his disciples that Jesus is the Christ and to see the joy of doing ministry "one must decrease so Jesus can increase."
11. The chapter concludes with John affirming Jesus as the Son of God. Furthermore, John makes a telling statement: "If you reject the Son God's wrath remains on you." This means that wrath doesn't come on because of what you've done (good or evil) but for who you are (separated from God's life). Wrath is always equated as being separated from God.

### **REFLECTION**

1. What verse stuck out most to you?
2. Why do you think Nicodemus approached Jesus at night?
3. What barriers stand in your way of knowing Jesus on a deeper level?
4. Give your experience of being born again? How has your experience differed from just a religious experience?
5. Have you ever been jealous about someone else's successes?
6. Do you focus on what others do in comparison to yourself? What is the danger of comparing?
7. What can you change in your life to be 'less of you' and 'more of Jesus'?
8. What does it mean to you to be separated from God's life?

### **APPLICATION**

Take steps this week to press beyond the fears or insecurities that hold you back. Don't get caught up in all the rules of religion and miss the freshness of knowing Jesus on a relational basis.

