

Purpose: Love one another and grow as a community of believers

Text: John 3:1-21

Theme: Good Enough

Overarching thought: How good is good enough?

1. A man from the Pharisees named Nicodemus, who was a ruler of the Jews, came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could perform these signs you do unless God were with him.” Jesus responded “truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (vs. 1-3)
 - ***What does it mean to be born again, and how good must someone be before he/she can be “born again”?***
 - ***What did Jesus mean by the kingdom of God?***
 - ***How do we as Christians, participate in and help further the kingdom of God right now?***
2. We see Nicodemus confusing spiritual rebirth with a physical birth. But Jesus answers Nicodemus and tells him unless someone is born of the water and Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Jesus says that the Spirit of God completely transforms and changes a person’s life when they enter the kingdom of God.
 - ***Who can be spiritually reborn?***
 - ***Like Nicodemus, do we confuse salvation sometimes with other things, like doing “good deeds” or “turning over a new leaf”?***

Regeneration is the entrance of God’s nature and life into our real existence and identity. Regeneration is to be “born from above” or “born again,” and it is what enables us to see the Kingdom of God. – Dallas Willard

3. Jesus desires that each of us would believe in him and live a “free life” – not one under condemnation. The Amplified Bible translates verse 21 this way: *But whoever practices truth [and does what is right—morally, ethically, spiritually] comes to the Light, so that his works may be plainly shown to be what they are—accomplished in God [divinely prompted, done with God’s help, in dependence on Him].*
 - ***What are some reasons people don’t want to come to the light (believe or follow Jesus)?***
 - ***As Christians, are their areas of our life that still need brought to the light of His truth? How do we discover these?***
 - ***What does it mean that our works will be shown as prompted and helped by God?***

Reflecting on following Jesus: Spiritual Transformation only happens as each essential dimension of the human being is transformed into Christ likeness under the direction of a regenerate will (born again) interacting with constant overtures of grace from God in many forms. Such transformation is not the result of mere human effort and cannot be accomplished by putting pressure on the will (will power) alone.

– Dallas Willard