

**Night Scenes of the Bible**  
**“The Night with the Teacher”**  
**John 3:1-16**  
Pastor John Miller

**Introduction: (v.v. 1-2) Nick at night. Why at night? (v. 2)**

- Our night scene happened in A.D. 30 in Jerusalem.
- It’s the story of a night time interview.
- Rabbi meets Rabbi or “teacher meets Teacher.”

**\* Its without a doubt one of the most important chapters in the Bible because it contains instruction on the “new birth.”**

- From the lips of Jesus, we learn in this night time interview how to enter the kingdom of God—its only by “being born again.”

**\* I want to focus on three aspects of the new birth:**

- 1) Its necessary
- 2) Its nature
- 3) Its basis

**I. The Necessity of the New Birth (v.v. 1-5)**

**A. Note the context of the night interview (2:23-25)**

**B. Jesus makes it perfectly clear there are no exceptions. There is only one way to see or enter “the kingdom of God.”**

**C. How you cannot enter God’s kingdom**

1. By religion (v. 1) “A Pharisee”
  - a. Illustration- Paul- Philippians 3
2. By respectability (v. 1) “a ruler”
  - a. Illustration- “an aristocrat”
3. By race (v. 1) “of the Jews”
  - a. Why? Because we all have sinned!
    - i. We are sinners “by birth” (Adam)
    - ii. We are sinner “by choice” (transgressions)

**D. (v.v. 2-5) Questions?**

1. What does it mean to “be born again?” (v. 3)
2. What is “the kingdom of God?” (v. 3)
3. What is (v. 5) “born of water?”
  - a. “Born of water”
    - i. Not water baptism
    - ii. Not natural or physical birth
    - iii. It’s the work of the Spirit in the New Covenant

- iv. Illustration- Ezekiel 36:24-27- “For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgements, and do them.”
- v. Nicodemus knew this verse!
- vi. Jeremiah 31:31-34
- vii. “Born of water” is a reference to the Scripture, the Bible, and God’s Word!
- viii. Two things are necessary for the “re-birth.” The Word of God and the Spirit of God!
- ix. Water is used as a metaphor for Scripture.
  - a) Illustration- Ephesians 5:26- “husbands and wives”
  - b) John 15:3- “ye are clean by the word I have spoken unto you.”
  - c) Titus 3:5- “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit.”
  - d) 1 Peter 1:23- “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.”
  - e) Illustration- For your first natural birth (seed & egg) and for your second spiritual birth (Word & Spirit).
  - f) It’s a necessity!

## II. The Nature of the New Birth (v.v. 6-13)

\* Three facts about its nature.

### A. It’s a Spiritual birth (v.v. 6-7)

1. What is “the flesh?”
  - a. “Flesh” can only produce “flesh!”
  - b. Man can produce nothing spiritual
  - c. Even religious works are “the flesh.”
  - d. Its also called “the old man.”
2. (v. 6) “that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit.”
  - a. You must be “born of the Spirit” to be “spiritual.”

- b. True Christians have “spiritual life.”
- c. But, you still battle the flesh!
  - i. So, Ephesians 5:18- “Be filled with...”
  - ii. Galatians 5:16- “...walk in the Spirit.”
    - i. How? Romans 6
    - ii. Feed the “new nature,” not the “flesh”
- B. It’s a mysterious birth (v.v. 8-10)
  - 1. Illustration- Wind
  - 2. Illustration- My testimony
  - 3. It’s a mystery because it’s a miraculous work of God! “Spirit,” not “flesh.”
- C. It’s a real birth (v.v. 11-13)
  - 1. 2 Corinthians 5:17- “If any man be in Christ...”
  - 2. Romans 5:1-5:
    - a. “Peace with God”
    - b. “Access by faith into His grace”
    - c. “Hope of the glory of God”
    - d. “Love of God in our hearts from the Holy Spirit, which is given unto us.”

### **III. The Basis for the New Birth** (v.v. 14-16)

- A. Jesus had to die (v. 14)
  - 1. Old Testament- Numbers 21
    - i. “Lifted up,” “the cross,” “brass”
    - ii. Satan defeated
    - iii. Look by faith
  - 2. Sinners have to believe (v. 15)
    - i. What is “faith”
    - ii. Ephesians 2:8-9
  - 3. God’s love (Agape) provided our Savior (v. 16)
    - i. The Giver (God)
    - ii. The motive (so loved)
    - iii. The object (the world)
    - iv. The gift (His only begotten Son)
    - v. The recipients (whosoever believes)
    - vi. The results (shall not perish but have eternal life)

## **CONCLUSION**

**\* Have you been born again?**

- 1) Realize**
- 2) Repent**
- 3) Receive**