

John 3:1-21 (NIV)

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you

about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Sermon for March 10, 2024: www.collegechurch.org/college-church-online

KNOW ... *God and his Word.*

- Observe the imagery and metaphors used in the dialogue. Which ones speak most clearly to you and why? Which images and metaphors did Nicodemus misunderstand? Which do you think we are most prone to misunderstand?
- Jesus drew from the Torah (the first five book of the Old Testament) as a foundation for his teaching. Reread Numbers 21:4-9. Do you think this was a ‘light bulb’ moment for Nicodemus? Are there any additional connections to that you are making?
- In verse 21 Jesus tells us that our deeds should be “done in God.” What do you think that means, and how do we ensure that is true? What role might the Spirit play in this by keeping us in God?

- What stood out to you in this passage or from Pastor Mark's sermon? Discuss any additional insights, thoughts, or questions you may have.

ACT ... responding to & applying what we know.

- Reread verse 8. Jesus is describing a Spirit-led-life for believers. In what ways is the Spirit 'blowing' you around? How can you cooperate? How could you be resisting?
- In verse 14 Jesus explains that "so must the Son of Man be lifted up." In what additional ways do we see Jesus lifted up in our world? Are there ways in which we need to lift up Jesus so that others may believe?

BE ... living in light of what we've heard, becoming more like Christ.

Pastor Mark reminded us that the *so much* love of God is revealed in the lifted-up-on-the-cross-because-of-their-sin Jesus who died for us, the ungodly. This should bring us to a place of deep gratitude.

MAKE TIME for quiet reflection and prayer this week. Allow the Spirit to renew a sense of gratitude in your heart for the *so much* love of God.

KEEP becoming more like Jesus!

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