



# The Life of Jesus

## A CHRONOLOGICAL STUDY

### Lesson 21: Too Smart for Your Own Good? John 3:1-10

#### I. John's Theology Patterns

A. When John gives us deep dives into theology, we see this pattern:

- An event
- A question(s)
- A sign
- Key "take away statements"

B. Another example: John 9 and 10

- Event: Man born blind; Jesus heals him; Pharisees mad
- Question: "Are we blind?"
- Sign: Healing the blind guy
- Key Statements from John 10: "I am the Good Shepherd"

C. John 14-17 – Upper Room discourses

#### II. John 2:23-25

#### III. v.1 - "the de" (but)

A. v.1 "De en anthropos" - but was man

B. John gives us examples of uncertainty followed by Good News...

- 1:9-13
- 6:66-69

C. Nicodemus was "archon" – often "prince"

D. Sanhedrin – 70 elders plus the High Priest

#### IV. v.2

A. Why at night? John uses seasons/time of day to show spiritual status

- John 10: 22-23 – “it was winter”
- John 11:8-10 – “stumble at night”
- John 13:30 – “And it was night” with Judas

B. “we” shows he’s coming from the Sanhedrin or the leading Pharisees

- They can clearly see Jesus is doing “signs” but it’s not enough – not for Nicodemus and not for us
- John 21:25: “Now there are also many other things that Jesus did.”

#### V. Three Terms Nicodemus should “understand”

1. Born again
2. Kingdom of God
3. Born of water and S(s)pirit

A. Born again – v.3

- Greek for “born” is gender neutral - seen as “begat” in KJV of Matthew’s genealogy with fathers and “born” connected to mothers
- “Again” or “above” – G 509 – *anōthen* – Seen in James 1:19: *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from **above**, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

B. Kingdom of God (v.3 and v.5)

- YHWH is King of all: “The LORD will reign forever and ever.” Exodus 15:18
- John only uses the term in these 2 verses - This reiterates Jesus says it

C. Born of water AND Spirit - Ezekiel 36:25-27

- “water” is not amniotic fluid it’s a washing/newness from heaven - John 7:37-39
- Note it’s water **AND** Spirit - v.6 - John separates flesh and Spirit out - He’s aware of joining and separating
- Water/Spirit are life - i.e., God breathed (*ruach*) life into Adam and Ezekiel’s dry bones
- John uses “flesh” to show weakness of humans – Paul uses it to show sinful nature  
John 6:63: *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.*

## VI. Can and Cannot

A. v.2 - “No one can/could do these signs” – *dynamai*

- Used in Ephesians 6:13: *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*

B. v.3 - “unless...he cannot” - *ou dynamai*

## VII. vv.9-10

- Nicodemus is relying on his own power, knowledge, authority

- From v.4 he obviously can't comprehend what Jesus is talking about

- John shows us Nicodemus' progression: 1) gives Jesus a “fair” hearing (Chapter 7) and 2) helps with Jesus' burial (Chapter 19)

## VIII. My “Take Aways”

- Your smarts ain't gonna get it
- It's not about what you can figure out or know
- It's about believing (no pistis)
- You “cannot” see the Kingdom without being born again
- There's no “buts”

Questions? Comments? Thoughts?

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