

Simply Jesus | Born Again

John 3

Shane Freeman

November 19, 2020

I. There is a major difference between the Gospel and every other world religion. (John 20:30-31)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

—John 1:1

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

—John 1:14a

II. The Meaning of Being Born Again (John 3:1-36)

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with Him.”

—John 3:1-2

a. It's often the most religious who are most confused about eternal life. (3:1-4; 9-14)

Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

—John 3:3

Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?”

—John 3:4

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

—John 3:5-7

I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. 25I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey My rules. 28You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

—Ezekiel 36:24-28

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2in which you once walked...

—Ephesians 2:1-2a

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved

—Ephesians 2:4-5

b. Spiritual transformation isn't something we do; instead, it's only something God can do. (3:5-8)

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

—John 3:8

And 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.

—John 3:14-15

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

—John 3:16

c. Jesus simultaneously personifies God’s love and satisfies God’s wrath. (3:16; 36)

He must increase, but I must decrease.

—John 3:30

III. Less of me, more of Jesus. (John 3:22-30)

Study Questions

1. What comes to mind when you hear the phrase Born Again. Be specific. Compare your understanding of this phrase to how the world at large seems to understand it. In other words, how is this term understood by those outside of the church? Discuss any potential danger(s) that can arise from a misunderstanding and/or misuse of this phrase.
2. Read John 3:1-16. Talk about why Nicodemus’ coming to Jesus is so shocking. Observe the context, as well as the conversation they share. What does the context tell you about Nicodemus? What does it tell you about what’s possibly going on in his heart? Explain. Also, discuss how being “ultra-religious” might interfere with one’s willingness to come to Jesus for salvation. More specifically, how might one’s religious fervor keep them from seeing their own sin and need for a Savior.
3. It’s not uncommon for people to think that coming to Jesus for salvation is something they do on their own apart from any work of God. How does John 3:1-14 address such thinking? Read too Ephesians 2:1-9. What insight does Paul provide about the need for God to first work in us before we’re even aware of our spiritual need? Explain. Finally, how should understanding God’s

grace in our salvation change our attitude toward Him? Be specific in the kind of change it should bring.