

For God So Loved the World John 3:1-16

Nicodemus, a Pharisee and religious leader seeks out Jesus and initiates a conversation with Him. Surprisingly, Jesus tells him that "...unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (3:3) The dialogue between Nicodemus and Christ is the context for probably the most famous verse in the Bible: John 3:16. Here, we see God's amazing love for the world (and for us individually) being expressed through sacrificing His unique Son. Through believing (98 times in John) in Christ, we WILL never perish and WILL have life eternal! So, how did Nicodemus respond? See John 7:50-52 and 19:39-40.

The Gospel of John

- Author: John - *"the disciple whom Jesus loved"*
- Key word: "believe" (98 times)
- Written to: EVERYONE! (3:16)

"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish."
—John 1:14 (The Message)

"There are many men who would be god, but only one God who would be man."
—A Christmas Card

Who is Nicodemus? (3:1, 10)

- Why did he come to Jesus? (3:2)
- What does it mean to be "born again"? (3:3-7)
- What is the role of the Holy Spirit? (3:8)

What is our problem? (3:9-14)

Who is our solution? (3:15-16)

God's love...

"But God demonstrates His own **love** towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
—Romans 5:8

"And we have come to know and believe the **love** which God has for us. God is **love**..."
—1 John 4:16

Purpose of John's Gospel

"...but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have **life** in His name."
—John 20:31

Life (*zoa*); 36 times in John

- John 11:25 "...I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies."
- John 14:6 "...I am the way, and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."
- 1 John 5:11-12 "**And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life."**

What happened to Nicodemus? (7:50; 19:38-40)

Applications

- Believe in Jesus Christ- *For God so loved (your name)*
- Pray for those who don't know Christ - especially family
- Be bold in sharing God's love!

“At the first Christmas the Son of God became the Son of Man, that sons of men might become sons of God.”
—C.S. Lewis