

Today we are going to think about



from what we learn in John's gospel account  
of Nicodemus (John 3: 1-15)

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council.

This gives us his theological position and status in society. He was an important man.



He came to Jesus at night



Was he afraid of what others might say?

and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."



Nicodemus is impressed but has not understood that God is seeking for relationship – simple knowledge is not enough. Nicodemus needs a new heart.

## 'no one' includes everybody

**In reply** Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."



**unless**

**He shows that he is thinking on a completely natural level.**

You must be born  
again



You must be born  
from above

The word translated 'again' is ambiguous  
and can mean 'again' and 'from above'.  
He takes the 'earthly' meaning.

**"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked .**

**"Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother`s womb to be born!"**



## A fundamental change is needed.

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

You can't change  
what you are.



Only the Spirit of  
God can do that.



**A fundamental change is needed in all people.**

You should not be surprised at my saying, `You must be born again.`

The word “You” is plural here.



## **The Spirit works in a Sovereign way.**

The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound,  
but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going.  
So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."



# The natural mind doesn't understand the things of God

**"How can this be?"** Nicodemus asked.

"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.





**Why ?**

## Because we were dead in our transgressions and sins

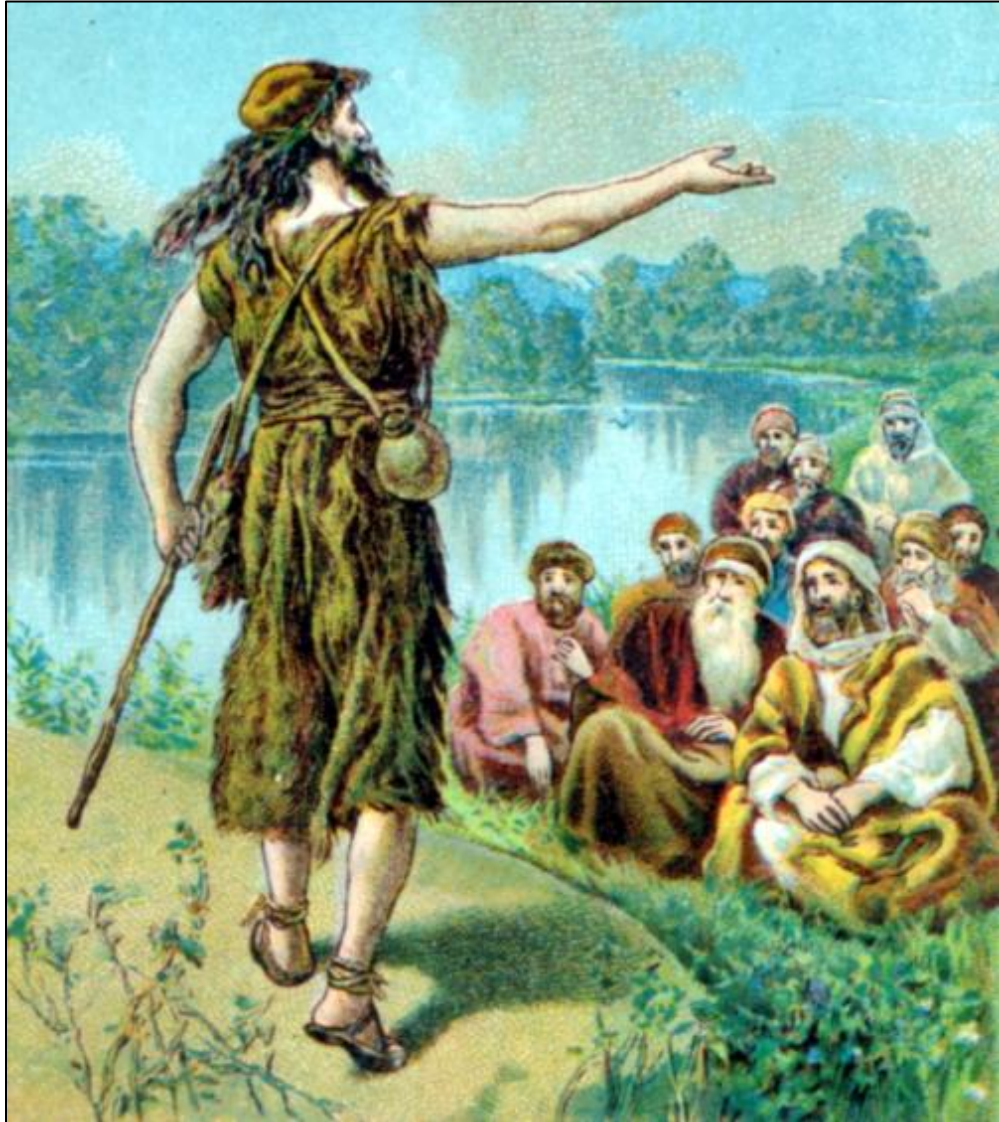
Ephesians 2:1-3 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

**Transgressions ...  
what you do – and shouldn't**



**Sins ...  
what you didn't do and should**

# What is being born of water all about?



Is it washing or cleansing? These are ideas clearly found in the Old Testament.

BUT also in recent times John the Baptist had been preaching.

And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a **baptism of repentance** for the forgiveness of sins. Luke 3:3

**It looks like Jesus is referring to what John had been doing.**

## This Jesus' message on how to be born again.

Mark 1:14-15 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. **Repent and believe the good news!**"



## The Apostle Paul also tells us how to be born again.

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Romans 10:8-10





## A serious warning - faith has to be real

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.



Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

# How can I know? Believe in Jesus, the only Saviour



## the 3 witnesses

1 John 5:5-8 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the one who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify.. the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

# How can I know?

1 John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

1 John 4:13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

**Something has changed in me  
now I am joined to Jesus**



# What comes next ? Believe and be baptised

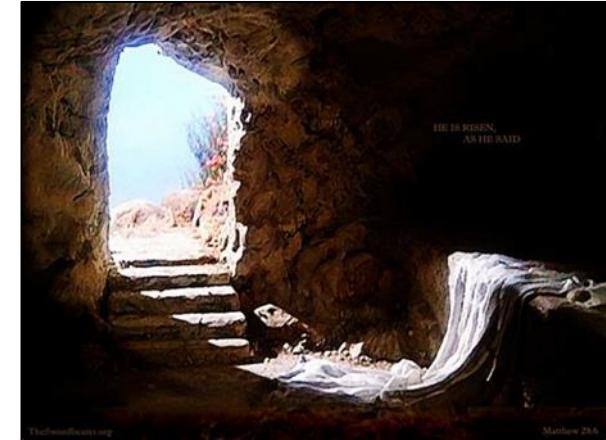
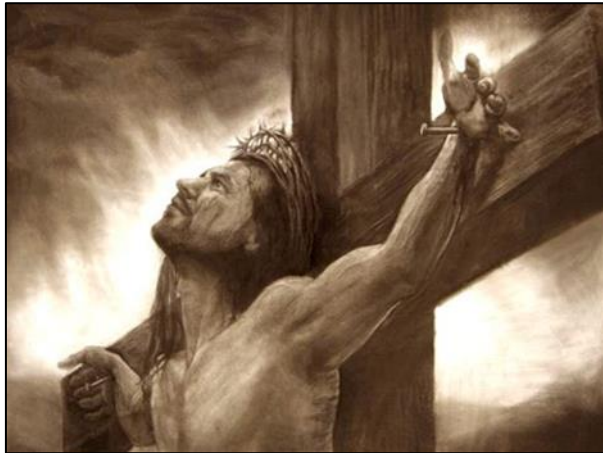
The Lord Jesus said:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19-20



## A Sign of our Identification with Jesus

Romans 6:3-4 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.



**Baptism is an external sign of the inner reality**

Baptism is an external sign of the inner reality

Mark 16:15-16 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

The essential part is:-

**You must be born again**

