



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel  
John 3:1-8  
From Sermon 4.2.23

Read *John 3:1-8*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: We now begin studying one of the most famous and well-known chapters in the Bible. Familiarity, however, doesn't always equal understanding and accuracy. Context is key. The teaching of the entire chapter and its cohesion to the whole of Scripture is vital. This is Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus. No other Gospel contains this event. Additionally, no Bible writer—John in the case—was there to witness this. Jesus Himself and the Holy Spirit had John include this event.

1. What was Nicodemus' title/occupation? Pharisee

1a. What did that entail? Judges, Teachers of the law, discipling students.

1b. What was the other ruling, judging group in Israel & What describes their doctrine? Sadducees They were the liberals. They rejected most of the Old Testament—only accepting the first 5 books. They denied a resurrection and the supernatural. [A select group of both groups formed the 70 member Sanhedrin]

2. What were both groups trusting in? The flesh. Worldly, external behavior and appearances. What was their soteriology? God's blessing was on them alone and they were saved because they descended from Abraham. See also *Philippians 3:4-6*

- Chosen by heritage: birthright, lineage, history
- Salvation maintained by works: Law, circumcision, knowledge
- Evidenced by God's apparent blessing: wealth, power, title, students, a following, fame.  
See also *Luke 20:46-47*

3. To them, what was the evidence of being a sinner, lost, and under God's curse? Non-Jews, being sick, poor, foreign, menial, enslaved...

4. What repeated word/term did Jesus use to radically correct Nicodemus' beliefs and practices? Born/born again/born from above.

5. What would be some modern-day equivalents of Pharisees and Sadducees? Pharisee: conservative/legalist/"extra rules" churches. Sadducees: liberals, scripture rejectors, charismatic health and wealth churches.

6. What would the average, unchurched person on the street say is the formula for salvation? Various answers. Be good. Be better. Don't do the biggies sins. Be sincere.

7. By using the term "born again", what was Jesus saying about salvation? It is of God. His sovereign choice. He does the work of regeneration and gifting needed faith and repentance. Jesus does the work of redemption. The Holy Spirit indwells, gifts, directs, and maintains salvation. The saved person plays no part—just as they had no part in their physical conception and birth. *Ephesians 1:13-14*

Reminder: NO BIBLE STUDIES NEXT WEEK