



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel  
John 3:9-15  
From Sermon 4.16.23

Read *John 3:9-15*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: After beginning to dismantle Pharisee Nicodemus' theology with the "born again" requirement, Jesus now introduces His identity as Yahweh. Only the God-man (Son of Man) has the knowledge, authority, and power to save. Everyone needs a righteousness outside of themselves, in order to be justified in God's sight. The only person with that sufficient righteousness is Christ. As long as Nicodemus (or anyone, for that matter) is still in the flesh and spiritually dead, they won't comprehend.

1. What is the meaning of "truly, truly" and the reason for its use? It is the Greek word "amen". Also translated "verily, verily". It's truth-truth or reality-reality. Its use signifies critical teaching. Its double use is for corrective teaching = unlearn one thing and newly learn another.

2. There are many people in the Gospels who *Jesus approached* [chose] and granted faith. Nicodemus (at least for now) isn't coming to Jesus in desperate repentance and faith, but merely as a curious seeker. Who would he best symbolize in our day and culture? Various answers. Include: The semi-religious. Holiday attenders. Those who think some decision they made long ago is the security and evidence of their salvation. Syncretism (the blending of all kinds of religions and faiths, claiming to take the best from each). People who believe God just wants you to be good.

3. What is the only thing driving Nicodemus' seeking? Conscience  
See also *Genesis 3:22, Ecclesiastes 3:11, & Romans 2:15*

3a. What can conscience accomplish and what are its limits? Accomplish: Internal knowledge of right and wrong. Guilt. Emptiness. Longing. Fear. Limits: It offers no answers to the deep, dark questions. It has no power to change anything. It is in bondage to sin and self. See also *Romans 1:18-19 & 32*

4. If the God-shaped void in every man is not filled by the Spirit, what will he substitute? Philosophy, education, science, works, religion, title, money, power, fun, toxic relationships, substances, vices....  
See also *Colossians 2:8*

5. When Jesus told Nicodemus about the nature of witnesses and basis for His authority on salvation, what radical truth did He proclaim? People share that which they know, have seen, have witnessed, have caused. Jesus is the only eyewitness and representative to have come from Heaven to earth with truth.

6. What Old Testament account did Jesus use to illustrate man's condition and God's grace in salvation? *Numbers 21:8-9*—God's judgement (snakes) & saving act = Moses putting snake on a Pole = Faith.

7. This corrective teaching put Nicodemus in a theological, doctrinal tailspin. Have you ever had a time or season where everything you were trusting in or believing was completely undone and disproven? Did it direct you to God or away from Him? Various Personal Answers