



JULY 2/3, 2022

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 3: 1-7

OPTIONAL STUDY DURING BREAKS

Scripture Reading John 3: 1-7

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'"

As a group, think through each truth and answer:

- Reaccept the Truth that you can't **save yourself.**

Pastor Josiah spoke about the Pharisees who thought they would be saved by following the law. They believed that if they followed the rules on the outside, they would be cleansed on the inside.

Read Matthew 23:25.

1. Describe a situation where GOD convicted you of being a Pharisee. Share how you were able to allow GOD's truth to set you free from religious rules-keeping.
2. In what ways can we avoid being entrapped by the spirit of religion? How can we start to have a relationship with GOD rather than merely trying to follow all the rules?

- Reaccept the truth that Jesus **died for all.**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

1. How should this truth affect how we forgive?
2. How can this truth help us love others rather than judge them?

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. John 3:18-19

- We were reminded by Pastor Josiah with this weekend's sermon, we are a **work in progress.**

In your quiet time with Jesus, allow the Holy Spirit to lead you away from any and all religious thinking and allow His cleansing to start transforming you into a daily renewing relationship with Him.