**Nicodemus: John 3: 1-8**

Points to Stress:

1. Nicodemus is thinking in human terms, but Jesus is talking in Divine terms. What is flesh is flesh and what is spirit is spirit. We must be born in the spirit to live our spiritual life.

2. Baptism gains us entrance into heaven

**1**Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-30441b)] **2**He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him.” **3**Jesus answered and said to him, “Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-30443c)] from above.” **4**Nicodemus said to him, “How can a person once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother’s womb and be born again, can he?” **5**Jesus answered, “Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. **6**What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. **7**Do not be amazed that I told you, ‘You must be born from above.’ **8**The wind[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-30448d)] blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Example:

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. Imagine yourself as Nicodemus. All the Jews around respect you. You have taught the Jewish law for many years, but you have hear of this man named Jesus, and the signs and wonders he has done, so you go to him at night. Under the cover of the darkness, so no one will be able to start rumors about you. Because most other Jews do not like Jesus. He doesn’t teach the way other Jewish leaders teach. He doesn’t act like them either. Nicodemus came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a person once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother’s womb and be born again, can he?” Think about what Jesus is saying. No one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above. He is talking about Baptism, but Nicodemus misunderstands. Do you understand that Baptism is a rebirth? Take a minute to think how you would respond. Jesus answered, “Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Again Jesus says, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. Being born of water and the spirit gives life to our spirits. Our spirit is dead without being born of the spirit. This is what baptism does. It gives birth to the spirit of God within us. So we are alive both in flesh and the spirit.