

REBIRTH AS EXPLAINED BY JESUS TO NICODEMUS

John 3:1-15

Introduction: Nicodemus was a Pharisee and Pharisees were the Law keepers who also enforced the keeping of every law in it's smallest detail - how far one could go on the Sabbath, what made up a "burden," tying knots on the Sabbath, etc.

He was also a "ruler" and a member of the Sanhedrin court as well as a teacher.

He was one of the most religious men of his city and of his day.

Nicodemus came to Jesus one night to get some questions clarified that he had. Jesus explained to Nicodemus that a re-birth was needed and that really confused him but Jesus explained, using the Scriptures.

I. MORE THAN "RELIGION" WAS/IS NEEDED

1. A good reputation was/is not enough.
2. Religious activity was/is not enough.

II. A COMPLETE MAKE-OVER WAS/IS NECESSARY

1. It is unknown to man/people how to do this.
2. It is impossible for a man/a person to do it by him/herself, even/when known how.

III. ONLY THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS DOES IT HAPPEN

1. One must hear the Word (as water washes and cleanses).
2. There must be a "want" to believe.
3. One must express his/her faith by confessing his/her sins and faith in Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus mentioned the brass serpent that was put on a pole and lifted up for the snake bitten people to look up and in belief and be healed, so must He be lifted up for people to see and believe in.
2. When Jesus had been lifted up on the cross, Nicodemus remembered what Jesus had said that night and he then believed.
3. What Jesus told Nicodemus that night has been happening ever since to countless people who also asked and believed and have been therefore saved.
4. Have YOU looked up at Jesus? Have you looked up in faith and confession?