

Jesus Offers a New Life

John 3:1-21

I wish that there were some wonderful place
Called the land of Beginning Again,
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches
And all of our poor selfish grief
Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door, And never put on again.

The Land of Beginning Again

by Louisa Fletcher

Two Words that Describe Nicodemus:

1. R_____ —a Pharisee, “separated one,”
Jewish ruling council, wealthy, influential

**The problem with personal achievement is that
in our pride we do not need God.**

And he said: “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18:3

“Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Luke 13:3

Two Words that Describe Nicodemus:

1. Respectable
2. R_____

He came with a very respectable greeting:

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.” John 3:1-2

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? Mark 8:36-37

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." John 3:3

Five Characteristics about Jesus' Offer to be Born Again

1. It is e_____ —it is not optional.

2. It is a spiritual birth— and not a p_____ one.

"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" John 3:4

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment Hebrews 9:27

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. John 3:5

"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. Isaiah 1:18

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. John 3:6

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17

3. It is p_____ experienced, but it is not easily explained. *Five Characteristics about Jesus' Offer to be Born Again*

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. John 3:9

You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." John 3:7-8

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. John 3:14-15

4. New birth is by faith, and not by w_____.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **John 3:16** (NKJV)*

We are saved by our relationship to Him, not by our own efforts.

*he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. **Titus 3:5-7***

5. New birth is personal; it is not u_____.

*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. **John 3:17-18***

God has offered a pardon from sin and a new life in Jesus Christ.

If a person defiantly rejects that pardon, it no longer applies.

*Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, "Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?" **John 7:50-51***

*Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. **John 19:37-39***

Why do people d_____ in accepting Jesus today?

1. They are too in love with the world to give it up.

People love darkness.

*This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. **John 3:19-20***

*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. **John 10:10** (NKJV)*

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. **John 10:10** (NIV, 1984)*

Why do people delay in accepting Jesus today?

1. They are too in love with the world to give it up.
2. They think they have to have some emotional e_____.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
John 11:25-26

But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." **John 3:21**

"Whoever will may _____."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.
Revelation 22:17

The Greatest Offer Ever Made

God — greatest being
so loved — greatest emotion
He gave — greatest virtue
His only Son — greatest gift
whoever — greatest invitation
believes — greatest simplicity
shall not perish — greatest promise
everlasting life — greatest reward

Key: Respectable, Restless, essential, physical, personally, works, universal, delay, experience, come