

21 Day Journey Into The Bible

“Jesus Says, ‘You Must Be Born Again’” – John 3:1-36

January 28, 2007

Overview of Our Study Together

21 DAY JOURNEY INTO THE BIBLE				
<i>A Chapter by Chapter Study of the Gospel of John</i>				
Outline	Time	Content	Text	Date
Prologue		Introducing Jesus	John 1:1-18	Jan 7
Public Ministry of the Son of God	A Few Years	Jesus Calls His First Disciples	John 1:19-51	Jan 14
		Jesus Changes Water Into Wine	John 2	Jan 21
		Jesus Says, “You Must Be Born Again”	John 3	Jan 28
		Jesus Talks with a Sinful Woman	John 4	Feb 4
		Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man	John 5	Feb 11
		Jesus Walks on Water	John 6	Feb 18
		Jesus Teaches at a Convention	John 7	Feb 25
		Jesus Deals with an Affair	John 8	Mar 4
		Jesus Heals a Blind Man	John 9	Mar 11
		Jesus Claims to Be God	John 10	Mar 18
		Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead	John 11	Mar 25
Private Ministry of the Son of God	A Few Hours	Jesus Receives an Extravagant Gift	John 12	Apr 22
		Jesus Washes His Disciples’ Feet	John 13	Apr 29
		Jesus Promises to Send Help (1)	John 14	May 6
		Jesus Talks About Productivity	John 15	May 13
		Jesus Promises to Send Help (2)	John 16	May 20
Passion of the S.G. Post-Resurrection Appearances of the Son of God	A Few Days	Jesus Prays for His Followers	John 17	May 27
		Jesus Gets Arrested and Crucified	John 18-19	Apr 1
		Jesus is Resurrected from the Dead	John 20	Apr 8
		Jesus Restores Peter	John 21	Apr 15

Five Pictures to Learn From John 3

1) BIRTH: I must be _____ (vv.1-8)

- Why must we be born again?
 - In order to see the Kingdom of God (v.3)
 - Meaning #1: To enter heaven (v.5)
 - Meaning #2: To _____ God at work (v.3). I am only able to see what God is doing if I have been born again – if I have the “eye glasses” of God’s Spirit living within me.
 - Application #1: Can I see God at work in my situation? What is an area where I need to put on spiritual eyeglasses to see how God is extending His reign (Kingdom) in and through my situation? _____

- What does it mean to be born again?
 - To be born a second time. The first time was a physical birth through our mother’s womb (vv.5-6). The second time is a spiritual birth through God’s Spirit (vv.5-6).
 - Diagram of body, soul, spirit.
 - Our spirit died because of sin (Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12; 6:23; Galatians 6:7-8; James 1:15).
 - When we place our faith in Christ (believe), God’s Spirit does a spiritual resurrection inside of our spirit.
 - 1 John 3:9 – God’s seed is placed within us.
 - 2 Peter 1:4 – We are given a divine nature.
 - 2 Corinthian 5:17 – We become a new person.
 - Romans 8:9 – God’s Spirit comes to live inside of us (1 Corinth 3:16; 6:19-21).
 - Kent Hughes: “Being born again is a radical change that takes place in a person’s life whereby through repentance and a work of the Spirit he is given a new nature.”
- How are we born again? Short answer = _____ (v.16)

2) SNAKES: _____ from snake bites (vv.9-18)

- v.14 is an allusion to Numbers 21:4-9
- To believe on Jesus Christ is to look to Him as your rescue from the snake bite of sin – as the only way to be saved from your state of spiritual death and as the only way to be saved from the wrath of God against your sin against a holy God
- vv.14-18
- How do you know if you have really been born again?
 1. Objectively – You know you have been born again if you have _____ the Son of God to come live inside of you.

1 John 5:11-13 – And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.
 2. Subjectively – You know you have been born again if you have a “_____” inside of you that you have been born again.

Romans 8:15-16 – For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.
 3. Objectively – You know you have been born again if you see positive _____ in your life (2 Corinth 5:17; 1 John 3:7-10; James 2:14-24).

- Application #2: Have I been born again? _____ If not, will I respond to what God’s Spirit is saying through these Scriptures? Will I believe? Will I look to (believe on) Christ who has been lifted up so that I can be born again?

A Prayer to Be Born Again

God, I want to be born again. I believe. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that You died on the cross for my sins and were raised from the dead. I look to You. I place my trust in You alone to save me from my sins, to forgive my sins, and to give me eternal life. Thank You for doing this. I invite You into my life. Jesus, You are Lord. Be Lord of my life. Make me into the new person that You want me to be.

- Assurance of salvation – 1 John 5:11-13
- Sidenote: The Jewish people later turned the bronze snake into an idol and began to burn incense to it (2 Kings 18:4).
- Application #3: Let’s avoid turning good things into idols: crucifixes, pictures, mentors, pastors, church, books, etc. Lord, I am sorry that I have made _____ into an idol. I dethrone that and place You alone on Your rightful throne in my life. You alone are worthy of my worship and affection. You alone can save me and accomplish Your purposes.

3) WIND: _____ is like the wind (vv.7-8)

- Characteristics of wind: You cannot see it, but you can see its effects. It blows wherever it chooses. This is a picture of God and His sovereignty.
- ***Psalm 115:3 – Our God is in heaven; He does whatever pleases Him.***
- See also Psalm 135:6; Proverbs 21:1; Daniel 4:35
- Application #4: Will I submit to the sovereignty of God? _____
- Application #5: I cannot force God to flow in certain ways. But I can have my sails hoisted and ready (through prayer and obedience) in order to be ready to have my sails filled by God’s winds when He chooses to blow into my situations. How will I hoist my sails this week? _____

4) LIGHT: Bring _____ into the light (vv.2,19-21)

- This is a call to bring everything into the Light. Nothing hidden.
- The power of confession to God (1 John 1:9) and to humans (James 5:16)
- Application #6: Something I need to bring out of darkness and into the light is _____. The step that I will take to do this is _____.
- Sidenote on Nicodemus: Nick becomes more and more bold about bringing his faith into the light: Speaks up in defense of Jesus in front of his colleagues (John 7:50). Is publicly involved in the burial of Jesus (John 19:38-41).

5) WEDDING: He must increase – I must _____ (vv.22-36)

- Application #7: Am I content with the place that God has given me in His Kingdom work? Will I take John the Baptist’s attitude...
 - ❑ Jesus must become greater; I must become less
 - ❑ Let the glory go to the Groom (Jesus) rather than the groomsmen (me)
 - ❑ See the beauty of the Groom/Bride relationship.
 - ❑ Other: _____
 What does this look like for me? _____
- Beth Moore: “I once spoke on pride only to have someone remark afterward that she had far too little self-esteem to have pride. Pride is not the opposite of low self-esteem. Pride is the opposite of humility. We can have a serious pride problem that masquerades as low self-esteem. Pride is self-absorption whether we’re absorbed with how miserable we are or how wonderful we are.”
- He must become greater; I must become less.

Accepting the Challenge to Memorize 10 Scriptures over These 21 Sundays

- ❑ John 1:14
- ❑ John 3:30

Discussion Questions with Family, Friends, and Small Group

1. Has the term “born again” been a positive or negative term in the past for you and people you know. Talk about past perceptions of this term.
2. Read John 3 aloud. Discuss the 5 pictures in this chapter using the sermon notes. What struck you? What are your applications? (Please look up and discuss the Scripture references along the way).