



WEEK FOUR HANDOUT – The Son’s Mission Disclosed

BAND OF BROTHERS 2020

Key Verse: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”* – John 3:16 ESV

- **Jesus and Nicodemus**

Now there was a man of the **Pharisees** named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **This man came to Jesus by night** and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” – John 3:1-2 ESV

- Pharisee
  - Religious sect within Judaism during the time of Christ
    - Fairly conservative and mostly working class
    - Relied on oral tradition and scripture, but focused a lot of attention on tradition

*Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.” He answered them, “**And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?**”* – Matthew 15:1-3 ESV

- Sadducees
  - Wealthy
  - Rejected the resurrection of the dead
  - Opposed the Pharisees
- The Sanhedrin
  - Pharisees and Sadducees both made up the 70 member Sanhedrin
  - Charged with upholding the Jewish law

- Served as the court of law for Israel and the Jewish people
- Nicodemus came by night
  - This speaks volumes
    - He came alone and does not appear to have been sent by others
    - Admits that Jesus is “from God”
    - This is in contrast to what the rest of the Pharisees believed

*Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “**How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?**” – John 3:3-4 ESV*

- Jesus’ response
  - Born again to be saved
  - “Again” translated *anōthen* – “from above”
  - Jesus is establishing early that one must be born from above or from heaven to enter the kingdom
- Nicodemus’ confusion
  - How can someone be “born again?”
  - Enter his mother’s womb again?
  - He is stuck on an earthly plane
- Nicodemus’ thoughts on the coming kingdom
  - The Messiah would bring a physical kingdom in Jerusalem where He would sit on the throne of David and rule
  - The coming kingdom was for those who could trace their line back to Abraham
  - He had an inherited right to the Kingdom

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of **water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again. The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’” - John 3:5-8 ESV*

- Jesus explains his response
  - Focus shifts from “seeing” the kingdom to “entering” it
  - Being born again will be vital to anyone entering and enjoying life in the Kingdom Christ will establish on earth

*“born of **water and the Spirit**”*

- Difficult to understand

- New birth is from above and will involve a spiritual cleansing that makes us worthy of entrance into the kingdom of heaven

*And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, when the Lord shall have **washed away** the filth of the daughters of Zion and **cleansed the bloodstains** of Jerusalem from its midst by a **spirit of judgment** and by a **spirit of burning**. – Isaiah 4:3-4 ESV*

*John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire**. – Luke 3:16 ESV*

- “Water and Spirit” is meant to let Nicodemus know that the kingdom he longs to see will only be occupied by those who have received purification from above

*Nicodemus said to Him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “**Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?** Truly, truly, I say to you, **we** speak of what **we** know, and bear witness to what **we** have seen, but you do not receive **our** testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can I tell you heavenly things?”- John 3:9-12 ESV*

- Jesus’ second response

- He will never be able to “do enough” to enter the kingdom of Heaven
- His position as a Pharisee does not guarantee him entrance into the kingdom

*You believe that God is one; you do well. **Even the demons believe**—and shudder! – James 2:19 ESV*

*No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the **Son of Man**. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, **so must the Son of Man be lifted up**, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. – John 3:13-15 ESV*

- The truth bomb
  - Jesus says he is the Son of Man – The Messiah
  - Fulfilling Daniel 7:13-14

*“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a **son of man**, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. **And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom**, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.” – Daniel 7:13-14 ESV*

- Jesus predicts his death – 3:14-15

- Key to understanding the new birth
- Substitutionary atonement

*He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; **upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—everyone—to his own way; and **the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**” – Isaiah 53:5 ESV*

- **The mission disclosed**

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” – John 3:16-18*

- Takes on much more meaning in the context of this conversation
  - Jesus brought good news to Nicodemus
    - Based on belief (18) and unbelief (19-21)
  - The light is Jesus, revealing who He says He is
    - “Light of the world” (John 1:1-5)
  - Darkness is evil, sin
    - Light shines in the darkness and exposes what is actually there
    - But man has loved sin rather than the light

• **JESUS AND THE WOMAN OF SAMARIA (4:1-45)**

*A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” **(For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)** – John 4:7-9 ESV*

- The Jews and Samaritans hated each other
  - Saw them as half-breeds who practiced “half worship”
  - For a Jew to pass through Samaria was a BIG DEAL

*Jesus answered her, “**If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.**” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. **Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.**” – John 4:10-12 ESV*

- Similar story to that of Nicodemus
  - Once again, Jesus reveals His true identity and she is confused
    - Nicodemus and being “born again”

- Samaritan woman and thirst-quenching water
- Don't miss the contrast
  - Both found themselves in a conversation with Jesus, the Son of God
  - But they could not understand the spiritual nature of Jesus' words

*Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." – John 4:13-15*

- The woman still thought that Jesus was talking about actual water
  - She would no longer have to go to the well to get water
  - But "that of the flesh is flesh and that of the spirit is spirit"
  - Being born into the family of Israel was not enough
  - New birth (from above) was required
- Nicodemus needed a different kind of birth and she needed a different kind of water
  - But she missed the point
- Both Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman worshiped Yahweh
  - Nicodemus worshipped at the Temple in Jerusalem according to the Law
  - The woman worshiped at Mount Gerizim the way Moses taught
- BOTH FAILED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THEIR NEED FOR A SAVIOR
  - Despite their obvious differences, they were going to be denied entrance to the kingdom for the same reason: Their sin
    - Nicodemus' believed himself to be outwardly righteous
    - The woman had her own set of issues

*Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." – John 4:19-20 ESV*

- Jesus changes the subject to her sin
  - She feels tries to change the subject from her five failed marriages
  - Says Jesus is a prophet but that they disagree on where to worship

*"...the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he*

*will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.” – John 4:23-25  
ESV*

- Jesus brings it back to her
  - She changes the subject again: “I know the Messiah is coming”
  - Jesus drops the truth bomb: “I who speak to you am he”

***Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” So, when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.” – John 4:39-42 ESV***

- Her response
  - She went into town and tells everyone, and many believed

*He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. **Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.** - John 3:31-36 ESV*

- Affirms everything that Jesus has said
- The mission of the Son was to save the world from their sin

- **FOR FURTHER THOUGHT**

Jesus tells Nicodemus that the world loves the darkness. As believers today, what do we have in our lives that reflect our love of the darkness over the light?

What lessons do we learn from the gospel message as found in John 3 and 4 that we need to share with others?

As you go throughout your week, in what ways can you worship God in Spirit and in truth?