

## John's "Spiritual" Gospel Lesson Three

[John 3:1-21].....Night Class in Session

**NOTE:** Pharisees vs. Sadducees:

**Pharisees** – Believed in the written law of Moses (Torah) and the oral law (interpretations and traditions to help understand and implement Torah. They were deeply respected and followed by the people. They believed in the coming Messiah, a physical resurrection of the dead, and divine judgment of good and evil.

**Sadducees** – Rejected any and all traditions and religious laws that were not literally found in the Pentateuch (1<sup>st</sup> five books in Bible). Since doctrines like the resurrection aren't found in the Pentateuch, they didn't believe in it. They controlled the temple and the Sanhedrin (Jewish high court) and maintained an alliance with the High Priest.

- Vss.1-2        Nicodemus is a Pharisee
- Vss.3-4        Jesus' harsh reply is not to be believed as such. But again, Jesus is God.  
What does Jesus mean by "born again"?  
                Nicodemus doesn't understand the concept.
- Vss.5-8        "Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to the spirit" – John  
                    maintains a sense of dualism in this gospel where two things exist  
                    (or both can be true); but one is obviously greater than the other.  
                    Salvation and conversion are gifts of God – a mystery to humanity.
- Vss.10-13     Jesus is expressing that Nicodemus *currently* is a member of the darkness  
                    that cannot comprehend the Light.
- Vs.14         Another motif of this gospel "being lifted up". Jesus should be (and will  
                    be) seen by all.
- Vss.14-21     God's ultimate work is to save; not to condemn  
                    Evil's fear of being exposed

[John 3:22-36].....Further Illustrate the Point

**NOTE:** This is mainly more proof that John the Baptist is not the Christ, and knows it – openly admits it.

[John 4:1-26].....Busted Barriers

- vs. 4         Why did Jesus have to go through Samaria?  
                    1.Racism and Sexism
- vss.7-9 Barrier of Sexism. Women did not hold equal status with men.  
                Barrier of Racism is internal. Samaritans were *Jews*. The hatred between  
                    the two dates back to the Northern Kingdom's defeat and exile in  
                    720's BCE to Assyria. Many married people of different races and  
                    were not viewed as being pure blood by Southern Jews.  
                    "for Jews do not associate with Samaritans" should be "*for Jews do not use  
                    vessels that Samaritans use*"
- vs. 10        Why doesn't she know who Jesus is?

## 2.Reputation

- vss.11-12 She believes the "living water" is found deeper down in the well than what she's been getting (vs.11) Which raises this question: *Who put it there?*
- "Are you greater than our father Jacob...?" Yes, Jesus is!
- vss.13-14 The water Jesus offers is a "portable" fountain. This means you'll be replenished w/out having to come to the well. This revitalization occurs only in Jesus
- vs.15 She still doesn't get it
- vss.16-19 The Samaritan woman's reputation is called into question  
She becomes defensive and switches subjects. Why?

## 3.Religion

- vs.20 Mt. Gerazim vs. Jerusalem
- vs.21 This is a reference to the coming of the Holy Spirit. The body becomes the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit so there is no need to call Mt. Gerazim or Jerusalem "centers of worship"
- NOTE:** Both groups of Jews believed in a Messiah. Historically, the Samaritans Messiah would be "Restorer" (*Ta'eb*) of all observance in the tradition of Moses, while the Jews believed in a Davidic King. Scriptural ties between the two appear to cease after the Pentateuch(first five books of the Bible)
- vss.22-24 "...we worship what we do know for salvation is from the Jews." Jesus is stating that the Samaritans are missing "chunks" out of their history – their acts of worship lack understanding. Exactly what these "chunks" are, we don't know
- vss.25-26 Jesus is not stating that he is the "Restorer", but much more

### [John 4:27-38].....The Harvest is Plentiful...

- vs.27 The disciples return with *nothing* to say
- vss.28-30 A convinced and committed woman can't hold her peace!  
One of the passages advocates of women preachers use - a woman takes the message that the Christ was there to her town, convincing them to "Come see a man"
- vss.31-34 Obviously, the disciples and Jesus are speaking of different foods.
- vss.35-36 The harvest that Jesus is specifically speaking of is Samaria! Jesus is sowing seeds in Samaria through an unnamed Samaritan woman while he's speaking to the disciples. Later, Philip (in Acts 8) would also sow large seeds in Samaria
- vs.38 This harvest is world-wide and extends to today.

### [John 4:39-42].....What a Woman (who meets Jesus) Can Do

- vss.39-42 Why would the town believe this woman at this time whereas, they might not have believed anything she said the day before?