

## BORN TWICE

John 3:1-21

Learn: And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness; even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:14, 15

While Jesus was in Jerusalem for the feasts of The Unleavened Bread, The Passover, and of The First Fruits, he taught and did miracles to reveal to all that he was the Messiah. (John 2:23-25). One of night one of the teachers of Israel, a Pharisee named Nicodemus came to see Jesus privately, for he had honest questions that he needed answers for.

Nicodemus addressed Jesus respectfully. He said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, because no man can do the miracles that you do except God be with him."

Jesus knowing Nicodemus' heart's desire and his need immediately gave him the needed answer. He said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, Except a man be BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus did not understand Jesus answer, so he asked "How can a person who is old be born again?"

Jesus explained that the first time a person is born, it is a natural birth, of the flesh (of water). But the second time a person is born must be a spiritual birth. The spiritual birth can only come from the Spirit of God. It has nothing to do with natural life.

Jesus asked Nicodemus why he did not know these things, since he was one of teacher of God's Word to the people of Israel.

Jesus told Nicodemus that the people were not willing to receive Jesus' witness or to believe what he taught, even though he, the Son of man, was the only one that had come down from heaven.

Jesus explained that just as Moses had lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so that is the people that looked on that serpent believing that they would be healed from the poisonous serpent bite, so that they would not die. (Numbers 21:5-9)

In the same way Jesus would be lifted up. Jesus would carry the sin of all people, and whoever looked on him believing that he took their sin on himself to save them from the eternal death would not perish, but have eternal life.

Now looking on the serpent saved a person from earthly death, but eventually each of those people would die as all people do, for the wages of sin is death. It was a temporary gift of life. It was like a first saving.

But those that look to Jesus to save them from their sin get that second saving, that second life, which is eternal. It is the SECOND BIRTH. Trusting in Jesus to save us from our sin gives us the spiritual birth and life that is needed to enter into God's Kingdom, and live with him forever in heaven.

For God sent his Son into the world that all people might be saved, rather than condemned because of their sin.

Jesus, he is the LIGHT. He shows us the way to have eternal life. He came into the world to take our punishment for sin, though he was sinless, perfect in every way.

But sadly, so many people refuse the truth, they refuse to see what Jesus the light shows us. Because, people love darkness. What they do is evil, and so THEY HATE THE LIGHT of THE TRUTH that reveals their character. They don't want to be confronted with who they really are and that what they do is evil.

But Jesus said that those that love the TRUTH, will come to the LIGHT, that is Jesus. They are the people who trust in Jesus. They will do the TRUTH, and their lives will show that they do deeds that are done in God.

Consider: Nicodemus, even though he was a Pharisee, most of who hated Jesus was different. Nicodemus was an honest seeker of the truth. God promised that he who comes to him truly seeking him, will find him. Nicodemus found Jesus, he believed Jesus and he was BORN AGAIN.

SO? Are you an HONEST SEEKER? Will you inherit eternal life because you have been BORN AGAIN?

## Twice Born - project

Needed: cardboard -  $15'' \times 5\frac{1}{2}''$  - one piece +  $2'' \times 5''$  piece  
craft sticks -  $3'' \times 4\text{ or } \frac{1}{8}''$  (painted on one end) - 3 sticks  
brass wire (diameter size of paperclip) - length  $2''$

### Project:

1. fold cardboard over itself 3x to make 4 layers to make <sup>stack</sup>  
glue each layer & clip to hold until dry (gorilla glue works well)
2. use black or brown colored pencil to make look like ground.
3. color sticks to look more like tree trunk
4. wrap wire around one stick to be serpent, use needle nose plier to shape head.
5. take one stick and make shorter glue it to last stick to make a cross
6. use small piece of cardboard to cut out 7 rocks - use colored pencil to shade

### Put together:

make 2 holes in cardboard stack - the ground

insert stick with serpent in one hole

insert cross in other hole

glue rocks at feet of each stick as desired -

illustrates John 3: 14, 15