

BORN AGAIN! John 3:1-8

Int: It was dangerous to go out after dark in Jerusalem. But his problems were too great to wait for the safety of the morning sun. Over dark cobblestones fled Nicodemus to the house where he found the young carpenter from Nazareth.

From Jesus he heard words that challenged him as no others ever had. “Nicodemus, you must be born again. You cannot enter a second time into your mother’s womb and be born again physically. But your life must be changed so radically and completely it can be described only as starting life all over again! You must be born again!”

MUST

His simple word would have been enough but the Lord offered three reasons to support his demand for a new birth. Men must be born again to

Enter heaven (3:3,5). The “kingdom of God” is heaven. Unless a person is born again he cannot go to heaven. He will never see it! Heaven is not a reward for doing good. It is the inheritance of those who have been born again into the family of God!

Enjoy fullness of life (3:15-16). “Eternal life” is more than just living forever. It means having a full and meaningful life now. Nobody will ever really begin to live, to find real meaning for life, and to fulfill the purpose for which he was born until he has been born again!

Escape hell (3:18). Condemnation is not something that will happen somewhere out at the end of time. It has happened already. Anyone who does not trust Jesus stands condemned even now. The only way to escape condemnation and avoid hell is to be born again.

If Nicodemus, one of the nicest, most moral and religious men of his day, needed a new birth, everybody does! The new birth is not a luxury some men may have; it is a necessity all men must have!

MEANING

What is this new birth Jesus demanded of all? It is a

Specific experience. Like physical birth it is a real event that happens at a definite time and place.

Spiritual experience. It is not reformation on the outside but change down deep inside.

Supernatural experience. It is “not (alone) of human decision...but of God” (1:13).

MEANS

How can a person get this new birth?

Faith in Jesus (3:16). This means believing the facts about Jesus AND transferring trust to him and him alone.

The Holy Spirit. Jesus’ whole conversation with Nicodemus focused on the Spirit. When someone places his faith in Jesus the Holy Spirit brings about a new birth in his life.