

Dr. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church

John 2:23-3:3 | Born Again

Sunday October 25, 2026

KEYPOINT 1:

Jesus had no faith in their _____—He didn't believe in their _____.

KEYPOINT 2:

We must see Nicodemus as a human _____ standing before God.

KEYPOINT 3:

_____ is when the Holy Spirit transforms someone from spiritual death to spiritual life.

KEYPOINT 4:

We are physically _____ *spiritually* _____.

KEYPOINT 5:

Your religious _____ and good works cannot give you spiritual life.

SERMON NOTES:

[illegible]

POP QUIZ

1. Why did many people in Jerusalem believe in Jesus' name during the Passover Festival?

- A. They heard Nicodemus publicly endorse Him.
- B. They saw the miraculous signs He performed.
- C. They learned He was joining the Sanhedrin.
- D. They watched Him overthrow Roman authorities.

2. What does the key point "Jesus had no faith in their faith" mean?

- A. Jesus refused to accept anyone from Jerusalem.
- B. Jesus believed miracles prevented genuine faith.
- C. Jesus needed more time to understand their motives.
- D. Jesus knew their belief was superficial.

3. What does Jesus' omniscience tell us about His knowledge of people?

- A. He knows the true condition of every heart.
- B. He knows only what people reveal through their actions.
- C. He understands religious leaders better than ordinary people.
- D. He discovers people's motives by asking questions.

4. Why is Nicodemus presented as a human representative standing before God?

- A. He demonstrates that education prevents people from believing.
- B. He proves that influential people need a different gospel.
- C. He shows that even the most impressive person needs to be born again.
- D. He illustrates that religious accomplishments earn God's favor.

5. According to Jesus in John 3:3, what is necessary to see the kingdom of God?

- A. A person must understand every commandment.
- B. A person must personally witness a miracle.
- C. A person must develop an impressive religious résumé.
- D. A person must be born again.

6. What does it mean that regeneration is “monergistic”?

- A. God begins the new birth, and human effort completes it.
- B. Religious instruction gradually produces the new birth.
- C. God alone accomplishes the work of giving spiritual life.
- D. People produce the new birth through sincere determination.

7. What does the key point “We are physically born spiritually dead” emphasize?

- A. People become spiritually dead only after rejecting religious instruction.
- B. Physical birth does not give us spiritual life or the ability to regenerate ourselves.
- C. Spiritual death means people cannot make ordinary daily decisions.
- D. Growing older naturally prepares people to enter God’s kingdom.

8. Why is Lazarus used as an illustration of our need for regeneration?

- A. Lazarus earned new life through his previous obedience.
- B. Lazarus understood how to restore his own life.
- C. Lazarus needed encouragement to use his remaining strength.
- D. Lazarus could not raise himself; life had to come from the Lord.

9. What do the sermon’s final key points teach about religious credentials and the beginning of the Christian life?

- A. Religious achievements cannot give spiritual life; the Christian life begins with regeneration.
- B. Religious achievements prepare people to produce their own spiritual life.
- C. New birth is an advanced stage reached after years of religious service.
- D. Good works can substitute for new birth when someone is sincere.

10. Which response best reflects the sermon’s application concerning evidence of new birth?

- A. Trusting a past experience while remaining unconcerned about present sin.
- B. Depending on church attendance and biblical knowledge as the basis of salvation.
- C. Trusting the Lord Jesus and displaying repentance, growing obedience, and love for His people.
- D. Assuming that continued temptation proves the Holy Spirit has never worked in someone’s life.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Monday — Faith Beyond the Miracles

1. The sermon says, “Jesus had no faith in their faith.” What is the difference between being impressed by the Lord’s power and personally trusting Him?
2. When a prayer remains unanswered or circumstances become difficult, what does your response reveal about the foundation of your faith?
3. How can you practice trusting the Lord for who He is rather than making your trust depend on what He does for you?

Tuesday — The Lord Knows Your Heart

1. The Lord knows every heart completely. What thoughts, fears, or motives do you need to bring honestly before Him today?
2. Where might your outward appearance of faithfulness differ from what is happening within your heart?
3. How does knowing that the Lord understands you encourage you?

Wednesday — More Than Religious Credentials

1. Nicodemus had knowledge, influence, and respect, yet he still needed to be born again. Which religious accomplishments are you tempted to rely on for assurance?
2. What is the difference between knowing facts about the Lord and personally knowing and trusting Him?
3. How can Nicodemus’s encounter help you speak with someone who assumes that being moral or religious makes a person right with God?

Thursday — Born Again from Above

1. Regeneration is the Holy Spirit’s work of bringing someone from spiritual death to spiritual life. How does this differ from simply improving your behavior?
2. In Ezekiel 36:26–27, God promises a new heart and His indwelling Spirit. What changes in your desires and attitudes reflect His work in you?
3. How does recognizing that God alone gives spiritual life shape the way you pray for someone who does not yet know the Lord?

Friday — Grace That Removes Our Boasting

1. The sermon emphasizes that we are physically born spiritually dead. How does recognition deepen your gratitude for God's grace?
2. If salvation is God's gift rather than your achievement, how should that affect your attitude toward people who remain unbelieving or struggle with sin?
3. Old sins may still entice believers, but new life brings a battle against them. Where do you need to depend on the Lord and actively resist temptation today?

Saturday — Evidence of New Life

1. As you examine your life, where do you see growing repentance, love for the Lord, hunger for His Word, and love for His people?
2. Are you more troubled by your sin itself or mainly by its consequences? What would sincere repentance look like in a specific area of your life?
3. The Lord continues the work He begins in His people. How does that promise encourage you in an area where your spiritual growth feels slow?