Dr. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church

John 3:9-15 | Born Again: Part 3

Sunday November 8, 2026

KEYPOINT 1:

Nicodemus doesn't need more _____—he needs to _____ and _____.

KEYPOINT 2:

Although he was a _____ teacher, Nicodemus proved to be a _____ learner.

KEYPOINT 3:

The _____ are not enough without the _____ regenerating work.

KEYPOINT 4:

If people don't like spiritual _____, they certainly don't like being told they are spiritually _____.

KEYPOINT 5:

The "Son of Man" embodies Jesus' _____ origin, _____ mission, and _____ return.

SERMON NOTES:

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POP QUIZ

1. According to the sermon, what distinguishes a sincere skeptic from an insincere skeptic?

A. A sincere skeptic avoids asking difficult questions.
B. A sincere skeptic already understands every doctrine.
C. A sincere skeptic seeks truth and welcomes input.
D. A sincere skeptic trusts only personal opinions.

2. In the sermon's first key point, what does Nicodemus need to do with the truth Jesus has given him?

A. Gather more religious credentials.
B. Repent and believe.
C. Defend his existing religious system.
D. Wait for approval from other teachers.

3. What contrast does the sermon draw when Jesus questions Nicodemus in John 3:10?

A. He understood Jesus but could not explain himself.
B. He lacked religious training but understood heavenly things.
C. He was a renowned teacher but a poor learner.
D. He was an inexperienced teacher but a gifted learner.

4. In the explanation of John 3:11, what deeper problem does Jesus expose?

A. Nicodemus could not locate the Hebrew Scriptures.
B. Nicodemus had never heard anyone speak about God.
C. Nicodemus needed Jesus to speak more loudly.
D. Nicodemus was unwilling to believe Jesus' testimony.

5. Why does the sermon compare Jesus to a trustworthy Grand Canyon guide?

A. Jesus comes from heaven and speaks with firsthand authority.
B. Jesus invites people to discover heaven through guesswork.
C. Jesus repeats the opinions of respected religious leaders.
D. Jesus learned heavenly truths from Nicodemus.

6. In the wilderness account, what does Israel's complaint about "this wretched food" reveal?

A. They were ungrateful for the provision God had given them.
B. They were grateful for God's daily provision.
C. They were celebrating their freedom from Egypt.
D. They wanted to preserve manna for future generations.

7. How did God judge Israel's rebellion in Numbers 21?

A. He sent an invading army into their camp.
B. He sent the people back into slavery in Egypt.
C. He sent poisonous snakes among the people.
D. He sent a flood through their camp.

8. After Moses interceded in Numbers 21, what did God instruct him to do?

A. Prepare an ointment and distribute it throughout the camp.
B. Build an altar and require payment from everyone bitten.
C. Send the injured people back toward Egypt.
D. Make a snake image and mount it on a pole.

9. What is the main spiritual lesson of the sermon's bandage and ointment illustration?

A. Religious activity gradually removes the guilt of sin.
B. Sin becomes harmless when people hide its outward effects.
C. Sincere effort can replace trusting the remedy God supplies.
D. Human remedies cannot cure sin; we need God's provision.

10. When Jesus says the Son of Man must be "lifted up," what event does the sermon point toward?

A. His coronation as an earthly king in Jerusalem.
B. His public recognition as Nicodemus's student.
C. His crucifixion.
D. His appointment to the Sanhedrin.

11. What does John 3:15 promise to everyone who believes in Jesus?

A. Complete understanding of every spiritual mystery.
B. Recognition for personal religious achievements.
C. Eternal life.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Monday — A Heart That Seeks Truth

1. When you bring questions to the Lord, are you willing to receive his answers—even when they challenge your assumptions?
2. How can you recognize when your questions become a way to postpone obedience rather than pursue understanding?
3. What truth have you already heard from the Lord that you need to respond to with repentance and faith?

Tuesday — A Teachable Spirit

1. Nicodemus taught others but struggled to receive Jesus' teaching. Where might your knowledge or experience make you less willing to learn?
2. How can you approach Scripture with greater dependence on the Holy Spirit rather than confidence in your own understanding?
3. When someone uses Scripture to challenge you, what does your response reveal about your willingness to be corrected?

Wednesday — Trusting the Lord's Authority

1. How does Jesus' heavenly origin give you confidence in what he teaches about eternal life?
2. Where are you allowing personal opinions or cultural expectations to carry more weight than Scripture?
3. What would trusting the Lord look like in an area where you still have unanswered questions?

Thursday — Recognizing Grumbling and Unbelief

1. The Israelites complained about the provision that sustained them. What gifts from the Lord have you begun to take for granted?
2. When have you romanticized your past while forgetting the consequences the Lord delivered you from?
3. How can you bring your difficulties to the Lord while resisting the temptation to blame Him for those difficulties?

Friday — Receiving God's Remedy

1. How does the image of a bandage over a snakebite help you recognize the difference between managing appearances and addressing sin?
2. What efforts at self-improvement or religious activity are you tempted to trust instead of the Lord?
3. What sin do you need to confess openly to the Lord rather than hide, excuse, or attempt to overcome in your own strength?

Saturday — Looking to the Lord and Living

1. How does Jesus' willingness to be lifted up on the cross reveal both the seriousness of your sin and the greatness of his love?
2. When guilt or doubt arises, how can you turn your attention to the Lord's finished work and his promise of eternal life?
3. Who in your life needs to hear that God has provided the Savior they cannot provide for themselves, and how could you share that hope this week?