

I. HOW

A. Conversations with Jesus

1. Gospel of John records 11 conversations between Jesus and individuals
2. This conversation with Nicodemus is one of the MOST important
3. Nowhere are clearer or stronger statements about
 - a. The new Birth
 - b. Salvation by FAITH

B. Results of the Miracles

1. Chapter 2:25 – He needed not that any should testify of MAN
2. Chapter 3:1 – There WAS a man.
 - a. Some commentators try to say that there should be a “but”
 - b. The language may have been used that way (connotation)
 - c. HOWEVER, we should trust the King James translators
 - i. Three colleges of men who lived their lives in pursuit of one thing and one thing only
 - ii. Not “linguistics” but only Ancient Greek
 - iii. Double and triple checked their own work
 - iv. Fought off injections of Catholic error by spies within
 - v. Outlasted pressures of politics from powers without
 - vi. I’ll stand with them over a modern commentary any day
3. What do we see? A pharisee
 - a. Remember – the feast day
 - i. Jesus Preached the Word
 - ii. Jesus Performed the Wonders
 - b. AND many “believed” ... at least they “saw”
 - c. Nicodemus had seen it
 - i. He was a ruler of the Jews
 - ii. A pharisee – believed in the resurrection
 - iii. But EXPECTED an earthly king!
 - d. We see that in vs. 3 – WE know (the Pharisees)
 - e. They would have been thinking the miracles indicated the coming kingdom...which explains why Jesus answered vs. 3.

C. A Heart Hungry to Learn

1. He had a willing mind – he asked questions
2. He had a listening ear – he listened and tried to understand
3. He had been convinced but not yet converted
 - a. We KNOW vs. 2
 - b. No one can do these miracles except GOD be with Him
 - c. A little different from when others would later say:

d. Mat 9:34 – “But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.”

D. How Should We Come to Jesus?

1. Face-to-face
2. Mind-to-mind
3. Heart-to-heart

II. FACE-TO-FACE

A. Vs. 2 – Nicodemus came to Jesus by night

1. FIRST – let’s realize that the Bible does NOT say why
2. There are many ideas, but predominantly people think he feared
3. If that was the case, then why does he say, “We know”?
4. He was a “RULER” – vs.1
 - a. Meant that he maintained religious rules (not civil – Romans)
 - b. He probably couldn’t “sneak” anywhere for one thing
 - c. I believe that he wanted to have a deep talk with Jesus
 - d. And realized that he couldn’t do that in a crowd
 - e. He might have passed a card to Peter or John
 - f. He might have set up a meeting
5. He wanted TIME with Jesus!
 - a. He wanted Christ’s undivided attention
 - b. He came to Jesus FACE-TO-FACE
 - i. He didn’t send a letter
 - ii. He didn’t deputize a proxy
 - iii. He came in person!

B. The Face of Jesus

1. We sing a hymn that speaks about it
 - a. Face to face--oh, blissful moment!
 - b. Face to face--to see and know;
 - c. Face to face with my Redeemer,
 - d. Jesus Christ who loves me so.
2. What does it mean today?
 - a. We cannot physically be with Jesus like Nicodemus
 - b. But we CAN behold Him
 - c. We can see Him on EVERY PAGE of the Bible
 - d. From Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21!
3. Faces
 - a. His face
 - i. The face of a caring Savior
 - ii. The perfect spotless Lamb of God
 - b. Our face
 - i. In the light of His perfection
 - ii. We see our IMPERFECTION

- c. To come face-to-face with Jesus is a sobering thought
- d. To see Him as He truly is
 - i. We have to see ourselves as WE truly are
 - ii. When that happens we are forced to echo Isaiah
 - iii. Isa 6:5 – “Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”

C. Personally

- 1. We may not come physically, but we must still come personally
- 2. No one can get Saved by their parents or grandparents
- 3. Churches cannot Save. Baptism cannot Save.
- 4. Only a personal relationship with Jesus Christ can Save!

III. MIND-TO-MIND

A. Nicodemus came to Jesus Mind-to-Mind

- 1. He came trying to understand – vs. 4
- 2. But he missed what the Lord had told him – vs. 3
- 3. He expected the Messiah to start an earthly kingdom
 - a. So Jesus cut to the heart of the matter
 - b. Nicodemus thought miracles pointed to the kingdom
 - c. And Jesus TOLD him about the kingdom
- 4. But it wasn't what he thought!

B. Kingdom

- 1. The Kingdom of God is the RULE of God in the hearts of willing subjects
 - a. The Jews thought Messiah would throw off Roman bondage
 - b. Conquer the nations of the world
 - c. Be a better general and war-leader than David
 - d. Didn't realize that this world was NOT supposed to be their home!
- 2. Jesus said ye MUST be born again (vs. 7)
 - a. Salvation is the doorway to the Kingdom of God
 - b. Baptism is the doorway to church membership
 - c. And there's a LOT of error caused by confusing the two
 - i. Jesus very carefully enumerates them for us
 - ii. 1 – Born of water and born of the flesh
 - iii. 2 – Born of the Spirit
 - iv. Easy to count them off – vs. 5, 6, and 7
 - d. Any other answer doesn't make sense with the question! (vs. 4)
- 3. It's INVISIBLE
 - a. Jesus tells him about it in vs. 8
 - b. Like the wind!

C. Jesus knows all about the human mind

- 1. He invented it. ☺

2. We believe in a logical and rational and factual Bible
3. I have no fear of anything in this book!
4. It's all true and I believe it
5. Isa 1:18 – “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

IV. HEART-TO-HEART

A. Desperation

1. You can hear it the voice of Nicodemus (vs. 9)
2. Jesus had left earthly things and moved the conversation to the spiritual

B. Sight

1. Remember, the Jews had believed in Chapter 2 because of sight
2. Jesus was no longer talking about things that could be seen or thought
 - a. You can look on a face
 - b. You can analyze facts
 - c. Look at vs. 12 – Earthly vs. Heavenly
 - d. But there's no earthly explanation for the Spirit of God – vs. 8
 - e. Nor can we argue with Christ's eye-witness testimony – vs. 11
 - f. Nor is there any argument with the Authority of Christ – vs. 13
3. He was finally meeting with Christ heart-to-heart
4. But he didn't get Saved that night as far as we know

C. But he DID get Saved

1. John 19:39
2. Nicodemus received the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior
3. He did it from the heart, not from knowledge, not from sight

V. NOW

A. How should we come to Jesus?

1. We should come right now
2. 2Co 6:2 – “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”

B. We should

1. Seek His face
 - a. Psa 105:4 – “Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.”
 - b. Heb 11:6 – “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
2. Seek His mind

- a. 1Co 2:16 – “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”
 - b. Rom 15:6 – “That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- 3. See His heart
 - a. Acts 13:22 – “And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.”
- C. Come to Jesus
 - 1. Give your heart to Him