

## The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S5E10

### Six Ways To Be Born Again - (John 3:3-8)

**Description – What does it mean to be “born again?” Join us as we examine the differences between what this means today and what it would have meant to a first century Jew.**

Today we're looking at how someone can be “born again” as an old man, specifically, Nicodemus in this encounter with Jesus was probably in his late 40's or early 50's.

#### **John 3:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

<sup>4</sup> “How can anyone be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked him. “Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

To see means to realize or to recognize.

Born again means “born from above” or “born anew” (like a new creation) or it can mean “born from the beginning”

“Unless one is born all over again from the beginning...” or, “Unless one is born anew...” or “Unless one is born from above... you cannot see the kingdom of God.”

When the Jews heard “kingdom of God” they thought, the rule and reign of God in your life today. And being a Jew, being a descendant of Abraham means that we have a birthright, we have a heritage or inheritance in the kingdom of God just by the simple fact that we were born Jewish. Jesus reminds them that just because they were born Jewish doesn't mean that they're automatically in.

There were 6 ways someone could be born again: (Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, [www.ariel.org](http://www.ariel.org) )

1. A gentile was “born again” by converting to Judaism

- a. They were called, “a God fearer” - See Cornelius in the book of Acts
  - b. They were required to be circumcised (males).
2. 2. When someone became a king
    - a. When a person became a King they would say you were “born again” to rule and to reign
  3. Every Jewish boy was “born again” when he arrived at the age of 13 with his bar mitzvah
    - a. This was when a boy became a man, a “son of the law” (bar mitzvah)
    - b. You were taking on responsibility for keeping the law and commandments on yourself.
  4. When you were married, you were “born again.”
    - a. Nicodemus was part of the Sanhedrin, and one of their requirements was to be a married man.
  5. You had to be ordained as a Rabbi or a pharisee to be “born again”
    - a. Again, a requirement of being part of the Sanhedrin would have been to be ordained as a Rabbi, and to be part of the Pharisees.
  6. He was the head of the rabbinical school.
    - a. Jesus calls him the, “teacher of Israel”

### **John 3:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

Jesus is saying here that to enter the kingdom of heaven that Jesus is ushering in there are two requirements:

1. To be born of the Flesh - This is natural birth
2. To be born of the Spirit - This is supernatural birth

Jesus says you cannot just be born of the flesh, to be born Jewish, to enter the kingdom of heaven today in the here and now. Remember, it’s not just about going to heaven one day when we die, but to experience the rule and reign of the King of Heaven in our lives today, day by day.

“What is the purpose of being a disciple of Jesus today? We’re training for reigning” - Dallas Willard.

**Ezekiel 36:27**

<sup>27</sup> I will place my Spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances.

When God gives us the Spirit it's not so that we can be free to do whatever we want, having the Spirit means that we will obey.

**Ezekiel 11:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> I will give them integrity of heart and put a new spirit within them; I will remove their heart of stone from their bodies and give them a heart of flesh, <sup>20</sup> so that they will follow my statutes, keep my ordinances, and practice them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

**John 16:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.

Most Christians live today without the kingdom power in their lives today. You are a citizen of the kingdom, but you live without the kingdom citizen blessings and benefits for daily life.

When we live in obedience, we will experience the fullness of the Kingdom benefits in our day to day life. We'll be walking in the will of God for our lives.

Homework for next time: Read John 3:9-16