

HE SHOWED UP! - Pt 1 of 4
“Under the Cover of Night”
180 Church - Harlyn Matson – Dec 11, 2022

Text: John 3:1-17

Passages referred to: Ez 36:25-27; 37:1-14, Num 21:6-9

Theme: We’ll examine an interesting conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, a religious leader.

John 3:1-17 “Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

John 3:5-7 “Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”

John 3:2 (Nicodemus) “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.”

John 3:3 “Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

LOOK IN:

1. How has this week’s passage or sermon challenged or encouraged you?

2. How do you relate to Nicodemus? Do you consider yourself well-educated and well-resourced? Why or why not? How does your station in life impact your desire to seek God? Do you consider yourself more like the prostitutes, tax collectors, and “sinners” who followed Jesus? If so, why? How has your self-awareness impacted how you have received the Gospel?
3. How has God displayed His love and grace for you in your life? What have you learned about Him through these experiences? Do you have a hard time accepting God’s unconditional gifts of grace? Why or why not?
4. In your life, do you tend to view the role of the Gospel as more reform-centered or more transformation-centered? Why?
5. What does the phrase “born again” mean for your life? How do you respond to Jesus declaration that ‘you must be born again?’
6. Share some examples of where you have made reformations in your life. What are some examples of God’s transformation at work within you? What has been your role in either of these changes?