

# An Encounter of New Creation

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## Scripture:

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This 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." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus 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?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup>The 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." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Truly, 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. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the

world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. <sup>20</sup>For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God." - Jn 3:1-21 (ESV)

**From the Introduction:**

The Greek word for belief used by John, (pisteuo) means, "to believe to the extent of complete trust and reliance—'to believe in, to have confidence in, to have faith in, to trust, faith, trust.'" This is the believer's belief, it is the belief which all who choose to follow Christ must have.

- 1) The Fact (v. 16)
  - a) God loves His creation.
  - b) God gave for His creation.
- 2) The purpose (v. 17)
  - a) Jesus did not come to condemn creation.
  - b) Jesus came to save creation.
- 3) The reality (v. 18)
  - a) New Creation comes from believing in Christ.
  - b) New Creation comes from receiving Christ.

**Remember:**

<sup>26</sup>And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. - Eze 36:26-27 (ESV)

**Reflect:**

God, who needs nothing, loves into existence wholly superfluous creatures in order that He may love and perfect them. - C. S. Lewis

**Seek:**

Reread Ezekiel 36:26-27. The fact is, God loves His creation and gave His most precious gift to restore it back to Him. In accomplishing this He has placed within those who accept Christ His Spirit that we might walk in obedience. Note the ways you believe that God has caused you to walk in His statutes and rules as you live in obedience to Him.

**Share:**

Jesus reminds Nicodemus, and us, that he came to save creation, not condemn it (v. 17). Share with your group how knowing and believing that this was Jesus' purpose for coming compels you to share His message with all, without exception.

**Serve:**

What does knowing that those who do not believe are condemned already (v. 18) stir in you emotionally and spiritually when you think of the lost? Have you acknowledged or ignored this stirring? What changes do you need to make in your life to reach the "already condemned" for Jesus Christ?

**Pray:**

During your prayer time this week, ask the One in whom you have placed your "complete trust and reliance" to direct you in reaching others so that they too might come to know and accept the Son of God as their Lord and Savior.