

Studies in John

Lesson 7

John 3: Nicodemus

1. Why does John tell us that Nicodemus came to Jesus “by night”? (compare 3:19-21; 9:4; 11:10; 13:30)
2. Did Jesus address the statement of Nicodemus with his response in verse 3?
3. You may need an outside source for these questions:
 - a) What other way can “spirit” be translated in these verses?
 - b) What is another way “born again” can be translated?
4. Do “born again” (v3,7), “born of water and Spirit” (v5), and “born of the Spirit” (v6,8) all mean the same thing?
5. “Born of water and the Spirit” might mean one of the following. Select which answer you think best describes what the text is teaching and explain your answer. Use scripture as needed. Or, if you don’t think “a, b, or c” is correct, write in your own answer in “d”:
 - a) Physical birth and spiritual birth.
 - b) Water baptism and the spiritual birth that results.
 - c) Water and Spirit are terms that are descriptive of spiritual rebirth, and water baptism is not under discussion.
 - d)
6. How is the “wind” illustration like being “born of the Spirit” in verse 8?
7. Who is the “we” of verse 11?
8. What are the “earthly things” Jesus mentions? (v12)
9. Who is speaking in verses 16-21? Jesus, or John the apostle?
10. How might verses 19-21 be a commentary on Nicodemus?
11. Who is speaking in verses 31-36? Jesus, John the apostle, or John the Baptist?

John 4: Samaritan woman at the Well

12. What was unusual about Jesus asking the woman for a drink? (v7)

13. What are the advantages of the “living water”? (v10-14)

14. Does Jesus’ request that she call her husband (v16) seem at an odd place in their conversation? Why do you think he asked that question at that time? What is he trying to get her to see?

15. Who is the “we” of verse 22?

16. In answer to the woman’s statement in verse 20, Jesus does not respond by saying that God is seeking a new location from which to worship, but what is he seeking, and why? (v24-25)

17. How does this mesh with what Jesus did and said in 2:13-22, if at all?

18. The woman has a wrong concept of worship and a limited knowledge of Jesus, but what commendable thing does she do? (v29)

19. The woman misunderstood the living water. The disciples misunderstood the _____. (v32-33)
What was Jesus’ food? (v34)

20. Jesus apparently was physically famished (v7,31). But does he seem to care about that, according to verses 31-38? Why not?

21. Upon whose testimony did many Samaritans believe? (v39) Why is that ironic?

22. Furthermore, why did even more of the Samaritans believe? (v41) They believed, having not seen what?

What similarities do you see between the story of Nicodemus and the story of the Samaritan woman, if any?