

Preaching the Word
Acts 2:22-41

Review:

1. Our only authority is the Word of God, not our own reason or experience
2. We must speak clearly about the problem of sin as well as about the grace of God
3. We must keep the focus on Jesus, not on whatever changes God has made in our lives

Go further: Read John 3:1-14

1. How is Nicodemus described in verse 1? Why is it surprising that he came to see Jesus?
2. According to verse 2, when did Nicodemus come to see Jesus? Why do you think he chose this time?
3. According to verse 2, what two things was Nicodemus willing to admit were true about Jesus?
4. According to verse 3, what does Jesus say is necessary for anyone to see the kingdom of God?
5. Given Nicodemus' response in verse 4, what kind of birth did he think Jesus was talking about?
6. In verses 5 and 6, what sort of new birth is Jesus talking about? What kind of water do you think Jesus has in mind?
7. In verses 7 and 8, Jesus compares the Spirit of God to the wind (and in Hebrew, the same word, *ruah*, is used for both "spirit" and "wind"). In what ways does He say the Spirit and the wind are similar? What does this say about our role in receiving new birth?
8. Why do you think Nicodemus was so incredulous in verse 9?
9. In verses 10-13, what reasons does Jesus give for why Nicodemus should believe Him? How do these reasons help to increase your own faith?

Read Numbers 21:4-9

10. In John 3:14, Jesus points to a story which is recorded in Numbers 21:4-9. What were the people complaining about in Numbers 21:5? Was their focus on the flesh or the Spirit? What gift of God were they despising?
11. In verse 6, how did God respond to the people's lack of faith?
12. What reaction did the people have in verse 7 to their terrible problem? How have the problems in your life led you to do the same thing?
13. How did God tell Moses to provide help for the people in verse 8?
14. How effective does verse 9 say this solution was?

Read John 3:15-21

15. According to John 3:15, How is Jesus' sacrifice on the cross similar to God's provision for His people in Numbers 21:4-9?
16. According to verse 16, why did God provide the sacrifice of Christ for us? What is the only way for anyone to have everlasting life? How is this solution similar to what the people did in Numbers 21:7?
17. Why does verse 17 say God sent His Son into the world? What is God's intention for mankind?
18. According to verse 18, what happens to those who choose not to trust in Jesus? Why does verse 18 say this is the case?
19. How does verse 19 describe the basic desires of unsaved people?

20. Why does verse 20 say that unsaved people want to avoid the light of God's truth?
21. According to verse 21, why do those who live in the truth come to the light?

Apply:

1. Why do you think it is often hard for people of great learning and social prominence to surrender to Jesus? What things about God's plan of salvation continue to be difficult for you to understand?
2. Think of a time when you were ungrateful about the way God has provided for you. What helped you to regain your spiritual focus?
3. In what parts of your life does the light of God need to shine more brightly? In what ways do you need to follow Christ more consistently?
4. Who do you know who is like Nicodemus? How can you share the gospel with him or her?