

Born Again: What, Why, and How?

Chapter 8

Audio Lesson: New Testament #26



Objective: To understand the importance of Jesus' first miracle and to learn what it means to be born again.



"I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'"

—John 3:5-7

"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him."

—John 3:14-17

Jesus' first recorded miracle occurred at a wedding banquet when the host ran out of wine. Jesus turned large pitchers of water into wine, allowing the celebration to continue. This miracle symbolizes the new birth and shows that Jesus can take any difficult and impossible situation and turn it into a cause for joy. It is a picture of what happens when we believe in Him. He takes the ordinary, and miraculously transforms us, giving us new birth.

In the second chapter, John tells us that many believed when Jesus did miracles, but they did not follow Him. And because they did not commit to Jesus, He did not commit to them. There are different kinds of faith: not everything that professes itself to be faith is saving faith. Many only had an intellectual faith, not a faith to follow. Also in chapter two, Jesus predicted His death and resurrection on the third day.

In John 3, Nicodemus, a leading teacher, came to Jesus at night to ask Him questions. Jesus told this teacher that the only way to see God's kingdom is by being born again. Those who experience the new birth can recognize Jesus as their Lord. The way to experience this new birth is through faith. Jesus made it very clear in this conversation with the teacher that He was very God, God's only Son, and that through believing in Him we can be saved—born again. Once born again spiritually, we will see God as our king.

1. True or false? According to the Gospel of John, the first miracle of Jesus occurred at a wedding reception.



2. True or false? The purpose of Jesus' miracles included manifesting His glory and causing people to believe.
3. True or false? In scripture, wine is often a symbol of joy.
4. True or false? In scripture, water is often a symbol of God's Word.
5. True or false? What we believe, we do. All the rest is only religious talk.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

6. Using the miracle at the wedding as an allegory or illustration for being born again, number the following steps in their proper order:

- ___ Letting the new birth apply to your relationships
- ___ Confessing that you are not born again
- ___ Putting God's Word into practice
- ___ Filling your "vessel" with Scripture

7. Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus to ask questions?
 - a. He was impressed with what he saw Jesus do and wanted to hear His teaching.
 - b. He wanted to trick Jesus into saying something wrong.
 - c. He wanted to memorize Jesus' words and then preach them to others, pretending that he had come up with this amazing new message.
 - d. He was ordered by the rulers of Jerusalem to spy on Jesus.

8. In John chapter 2, what sign did Jesus promise to give to prove He was God?
 - a. He would bring peace to all.
 - b. He would bring healing and prosperity to all.
 - c. He would be destroyed and raised again in three days.
 - b. He would do many miracles.

9. What did Jesus say a person has to do in order to enter the kingdom of God?
 - a. Obey the law
 - b. Memorize the truth
 - c. Sell all possessions
 - d. Be born again

10. What does it mean to be born again?
 - a. To become a physical baby again
 - b. To convert to a new religion
 - c. To have a spiritual birth in which we see God as King
 - d. To die and come back to life as another person or in another form

11. How can we be born again?
 - a. Imitate Jesus.
 - b. Believe in Jesus.
 - c. Become perfect.
 - d. Detach from the world.

12. Who is Jesus in John chapter 3? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. God's only Son
 - b. God's only Savior
 - c. God's only solution
 - d. The light sent from God
 - e. The promised Christ, the Messiah
 - f. The One who must be lifted up on a cross



Are there any problems in your life that you would like for Jesus to transform into joy like He transformed the water into wine? If so, what are they? What do you need to surrender to Him today?

Have you seen God as your King and entered into His Kingdom? If not, then according to Jesus you have never been born again. Is there anything that prevents you from believing in Jesus as God's only provision for your eternal salvation? What is Jesus saying to you?



Thank God for His offer of new life to all those who believe. Pray that He would help you recognize Him as Lord and King in every area of your life. Ask God each day to help you live in obedience to His Word.



Going Deeper

1. In what way is the first sign Jesus performed at a wedding reception (chapter 2) an allegory of four dimensions involved in being born again, and how could the same four principles be involved in the spiritual renewal of those who are born again? _____

2. How do the second and third chapters of John answer the three questions, “Who is Jesus,” “What is faith,” and “What is life”? (Consider especially John 2: 18-25; 3: 14-19) _____

3. How should we personally apply the reality that Nicodemus came to Jesus because he was impressed with what he had seen Jesus do and then wanted to hear what Jesus had to say? _____

4. According to what Jesus told Nicodemus in verses 3 and 5, what is the end to which being born again is the means? _____

5. What is the Kingdom of God, how do we see it now, and how do we enter into it right now? (Consider also 1 Corinthians 12:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17, 18) _____

6. Based on the most dogmatic statement Jesus ever made (3: 14-19), who and why are those who are condemned, and who and why are those who are saved? (Consider also 2 Corinthians 5: 18, 19) _____

7. What is Jesus trying to explain allegorically to Nicodemus in John 3:14 by referring to the snake in the wilderness event in Numbers 12:8? _____
