

## Defeating Doubt

### Lesson 2. How Can These Things Be?

Nicodemus — John 3:1-9

#### John 3

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

9 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?"

16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

Like Zacharias, Nicodemus knew and tried to keep the Law.

He had religion, but no relationship with God. He saw Jesus as a teacher with a connection to God.

Jesus' unexpected answer revealed Nic's thinking — he understood on the basis of natural facts. What else can "born again" mean?

Jesus explained the two births:

- one from natural parents - one from above
- one of water - one of the Spirit
- one of flesh - one of Spirit

Being born again makes you like the wind:

- no one directs it
- you can hear it, but don't know its origin or destination

Nicodemus didn't come to faith in Jesus on that day, but likely soon after this conversation. He brought spices for Jesus' tomb.