

Studies in the Life of Christ

NT Survey Lesson 6--John 3

Introduction: John presents in vivid images the conflict between Jesus and the Jerusalem authorities. He shows how the Jews, particularly those who ruled in Jerusalem, rejected Jesus as the Christ. But there was a wonderful exception. In contrast to most Pharisees was the truth-seeker, Nicodemus. In addition to this chapter, John mentions him two other times, each time revealing an increasing faith that led him to openly declare himself to be a disciple of Jesus.

Lesson aim: To show the necessity and the meaning of the new birth.

Jesus talks with Nicodemus--John 3:1-21

1. How did John describe Nicodemus? (v. 1)
2. What conclusions had Nicodemus reached about Jesus? (v. 2) Upon what basis had he reached those conclusions?
3. What did Jesus reveal that a man must do to enter the kingdom of God? (v. 3) What two elements are involved in this birth? (v. 5)
4. Did Nicodemus understand what it meant to be born of the Spirit? How did Jesus explain this to him? (v. 6-8)
5. What rebuke did Jesus give Nicodemus? (v. 10-12)
6. What did Jesus say about Himself? (v. 13)
7. To what O.T. event did Jesus compare Himself? (v. 14)
8. What blessing would come from the "lifting up" of the Son of Man? (v. 14) To whom would this blessing come? (v. 15)
9. Why did Jesus reveal God had sent His Son? (v. 16)
10. For what reason had God not sent His Son? (v. 17) What is the state of those who believe in the Son? (v. 18) Those who do not believe?
11. Why did Jesus say men were unwilling to come to the light? (v. 19-20) What about those who practice the truth? (v. 21)

John's last testimony of Jesus--John 3:22-36

1. Where is the episode of this section located? (v. 22) What was Jesus doing there?
2. Describe the activities of John at this time? (v. 23-24)
3. What did the disciples of John tell him about Jesus? (v. 25-26) How did John respond to this information? (v. 27-30) What did he testify about Jesus?
4. What is revealed about Jesus in v. 31?
5. What were the two reactions to Jesus' testimony? (v. 32-33) How can we be sure that Jesus truly speaks the words of God? (v. 34)
6. What is affirmed about Jesus in v. 35? Who has eternal life? (v. 36) Upon whom does God's wrath abide?