

**MANIFESTATIONS OF CHRIST'S POWER
IN PUBLIC MINISTRY
JOHN 3**

A. The Interview which Nicodemus had with the Lord Jesus (3:1-21).

1. This interview was held at _____ and may have been because Nicodemus feared criticism, but it indicated he needed something more than the Jew's religion (3:1,2).
2. Notice Nicodemus begins by giving a testimony concerning Jesus. The Lord Jesus knew what was in all men (2:24). He knew this particular man had religion but it wasn't enough.
3. To bring this man to saving faith, the Lord Jesus got right to the point of what Nicodemus needed (3:3).
4. Nicodemus then revealed his ignorance of spiritual things by asking an absurd _____ (3:4).
5. The Lord Jesus then asserted the need for a man to be born "out of" _____ and of the _____ (3:5). In other words, a man must have a natural or physical birth "out of" water and a spiritual birth from above.
6. Notice, "that which is born of the flesh" refers to our physical birth.
7. To illustrate how the new birth from above is wrought by the invisible work of the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus used the _____ as an illustration (3:8).
8. In verses 10-13 the Lord Jesus pointed out to Nicodemus that His testimony was from heaven and not this earth.
9. Jesus then used an O.T. account to illustrate the need of believing on Him for salvation and asserts that this offer is extended to everyone (3:14-18).
10. Finally the Lord Jesus points out the basis upon which men are _____ (3:18), and why they reject Him. It is because they love _____ rather than _____ (3:19). The darkness refers to _____.

B. The confession of John the Baptist regarding the Lord Jesus (3:22-36).

1. John's confession of the Lord Jesus came about over a question concerning _____ 3:25).
2. John's disciples reported that all men were coming to _____ and being baptized (3:26).
3. We notice in verses 27-30 instead of being jealous or envious of the Lord Jesus, John used the analogy of a _____ of a bridegroom to illustrate his place and purpose in ministry.
4. Then notice how John exalts the person of Christ (31-36).
 - a. "He that cometh from above is over _____" (3:31).
 - b. He cometh from _____(3:31).
 - c. He speaketh the words of _____(3:34).
 - d. He has been given all _____meaning authority and he who believes on Him has _____ life (3:35,36).

QUESTIONS WHICH APPLY TO OUR LIVES

1. What does this chapter reveal about religion in Nicodemus' life?

2. That which is born of the flesh (3:6) refers to a _____ birth.
3. That which is born of the spirit (3:6) refers to a _____ birth.
4. What analogy did Jesus use to illustrate the invisible work which is done by the Spirit of God? _____
5. What O.T. account did Jesus use to illustrate that the new birth comes about through faith in Him? _____
6. What did Nicodemus display by the questions he asked about this spiritual birth in 3:4,9? _____
7. According to 3:19-21 why do people reject Christ and the truth about Him?

8. What verses show that a person can know that he is saved and has everlasting life?

9. John referred to himself as the _____ of the Bridegroom in 3:29.

10. How did John explain Jesus' relation to God the Father in verses 3:31-36?

11. What principle may we apply from what John declared in 3:30?

EXPOSITORY NOTES

- 3:3 The words verily, verily literally means "amen, amen" and are used in John's gospel alone for emphasis. It would be like saying "truly, truly."
- 3:3 Born "again" means born "from above." The word may be translated either way and what is needful should carry a two-fold meaning. A person must have a second birth (again) and this birth must come from above.
- 3:3 Without this second and spiritual birth a person "cannot see" or is "not able to behold or be admitted" into God's kingdom. See 3:5.
- 3:5 There are two views regarding the "water" here. Some see the water as a reference to the word which along with the Spirit comprise the two agents of the new birth (James 1:18; I Pet. 1:23). The context of John 3 seems however to imply that the water is a reference to a natural physical birth which is the first earthly birth. Whereas the second birth is from above or heavenly and wrought by the Holy Spirit.
- 3:7 Notice the word "ye" is plural and indicates that this new birth is necessary for everyone not just Nicodemus.
- 3:13 Here is a reference once again to the attribute of omnipresence which Jesus the Son of God possesses.
- 3:16 The word "world" is used in a three-fold way in the Scriptures. It may refer to God's physical creation (Jn 1:10), Satan's system which opposes and leaves out God (I Jn 2:15) or to mankind as a whole. This is the meaning here - it includes "everyone" and may not be misinterpreted as the world of the elect.

- 3:18 This verse makes it clear why people go to hell. It is because they do not believe in the Lord Jesus.
- 3:23 This verse supports the biblical mandate for baptism which is by immersion. It wouldn't have taken "much water" to sprinkle a few drops on a multitude.
- 3:36 This verse makes it clear that everlasting life is a present possession and not something one receives at death's door on the way out of this world. The verb "hath" is a present active indicative third person singular form and means "is having presently".