

## Jesus and Me in 2023 (John 3)

Pastor Deric

(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 are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." (3) **Jesus answered 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? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (5) Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter 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 marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' (8) The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (9) Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" (10) Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? (11) Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. (12) If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? (13) **No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. (14) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, (15) that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.**

(16) **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (18) Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (19) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. (20) For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. (21) But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."**

(22) After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. (23) John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized (24) (for John had not yet been put in prison). (25) Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. (26) And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness--look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." (27) **John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. (28) You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' (29) The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. (30) He must increase, but I must decrease." (31) He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. (32) He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. (33) Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. (34) For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. (35) The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. (36) Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. [John 3:1-36 ESV]**

### Practical Application

1. Let Jesus be at the center of your life in 2023.
2. Let Jesus be your primary teacher in 2023.

3. God with us and in us is what enables us to live with power.
4. Have you been born again?
5. Do you live under King Jesus' rule and for His Kingdom?
6. Look to Jesus' cross/death and resurrection for eternal life and abundant life.
7. God loves you so much. Receive and embrace His love to the fullest today and in 2023.
8. God loves. God gives. God saves.
9. Believe in Jesus Christ.
10. You can be sure you have eternal life.
11. If you are trusting in Jesus there is no condemnation for you.
12. Those who are not trusting in Jesus Christ are living under God's condemnation.
13. Jesus is the light of the world.
14. People apart from Christ love the darkness and do not want to come into the light.
15. Come to the light, come to Jesus.
16. Everything good we are and have comes from God.
17. Jesus alone deserves the spotlight, glory, honor, praise, exaltation, and worship.
18. There is a special joy for those who live for Jesus and His glory.
19. Let 2023 be a year in which Jesus increases while you decrease.
20. In other words, let Jesus be at the center of your life in 2023.
21. Jesus is above all.
22. God is true.
23. Receive the fullness of God's Spirit.
24. Be more loving this year by the power of God.
25. Sincere faith and real obedience are the marks of a true Christian.
26. Let Jesus be at the center of your life in 2023.
27. Experience the fullness of God's life this year.

### **Announcements**

1. Our Men's Ministry begins next Sunday (January 8, 11:45-1:00pm). Join us for food, fellowship, vision, and ministry for this upcoming year. Invite other men you know to join us.
2. Please let us know of needs in our church family that you know of that our men's ministry help with in the new year.
3. Our Small Group Ministry will be expanding this year. Join us on January 14th from 5:00-6:30pm at the home of Stephen and Jessica Baggett for dinner, community, and connection.
4. For the next few weeks we will be accepting Deacon Nominations. You can nominate men you believe live out the standards found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Place their name in the offering bucket or tell a current deacon or Pastor Deric.
5. Our Wednesday night children's programming (Awana) and adult small group Bible study will start back up on January 18 (6:30-7:30pm).