

## ⑥ Re-Think the Gospel : John

### INTRODUCTION | New Life

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In today's Bible passage, Jesus is approached by a man who is outwardly a very good man, highly respected, a leader of the people. And yet, Jesus' response to him makes us all: 1. Understand mankind's problem; 2. Repent as we see our own heart; 3. Receive and enjoy friendship with God through the cross of Jesus. Let's consider what our heart is like, and the rescue and real life that Jesus offers, as we study John 3:1-15.

### SCRIPTURE | John 3:1-15 (ESV)

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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 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 2 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.

### QUESTIONS |

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1. (Verses 1-8) What is needed for anyone to enter the kingdom of God, or get to heaven?  
(Reference Ezekiel 36:25-26)
2. How does this affect the way that you think about your colleagues, friends, family, who are not yet Christians? Discuss, and then spend a few minutes praying for them.
3. (Verses 9-12) What criticism does Jesus have of Nicodemus?
4. What examples are there in your own life where you have not trusted Jesus, despite him clearly saying something? Discuss, and then spend a few minutes praying prayers of repentance.
5. (Verses 13-15) What does Jesus offer and how is it received? (Reference Numbers 21:4-9; John 17:3)
6. How does what Jesus offers solve our deepest problems, and satisfy our deepest longings? Discuss, and then spend a few minutes praying prayers of thanksgiving.

## Reading (Reference) |

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### Ezekiel 36:25-26

25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

### Numbers 21:4-9

4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. 5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." 6 Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. 7 And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

### John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

## UPCOMING EVENTS |

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Finance Seminar ( Feb 1 Sun ) KDDI HALL 2F at the lobby 13:00 – 14:30  
*What The Bible Says About Money?*

Tohoku Relief Trip 6-8 Feb Ishinomaki Contact : relief@gracecitychurch.jp