

Speaker: Stephen Whitmore
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Reading: John 2v23-3v21

Many recognised Jesus as a miracle worker. Many saw a great teacher and followed the crowd. Are we content to see a great man or do we recognise the Lord is different to every other man?

One man was not content with seeing only but wanted to know more. Jesus was more than any other man, the very Son of God, “[God manifest in flesh](#)” (1 Tim 3:16).

Nicodemus came with many questions and received a simple answer. “[Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God](#)” (John 3:3).

He had to learn that there is only one basis of salvation, “[Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved](#)” (Rom 10:13)

Three times, the Lord uses the word except to highlight what is required: “[Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven](#)” (Mat 18:3); “[Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish](#)”(Luke 13:3,5). None was a greater sinner than any other. What does repent mean? Turn around, have a change of heart inwardly. We need to recognise that “[All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way](#)”(Isa 53:6)

Many make new year resolutions, by now, many are broken. It is not enough just to recognise the sin, must do something about it. We cannot overcome sin of ourselves. God must call us to account for all we have done. We must recognise we cannot deal with sin. Our life can only be changed by a work of God. “[Repent and be converted that your sins may be blotted out](#)”. You cannot convert yourself, it is a work of God, imparted to us by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the Lord explains in John 3:5-7, he refers to Ezekiel 36:25-27, verses that Nicodemus would be familiar with: what does this mean? People had tried to cover up what they were really like. They needed to bring life under the light of the word of God. We need to acknowledge what God sees in us. Through the work of Christ God can deal with the sin, “[Blood of Jesus Christ God's Son cleanses us from all sins](#)”(1 Jo 1:7)

Upon being saved we receive the Holy Spirit, the life and power of God within us.

How can I be born again?

“[The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life](#)”(Rom 6:23).

The Lord uses Numbers 21:5-9 to illustrate who this takes place: a serpent was put on a pole and all who looked would be healed and live. The Lord Jesus was to be nailed to a cross and lifted up before the people. God came as a man to take the sinners place. The judgment due to you was laid on Him. “[laid on Him the iniquity of us all](#)” (Isa 53:6)

“[Whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have eternal life](#)”(John 3:15).

At Calvary God shows us clearly what was in us. Had any other means of salvation been possible God would have done it. Only His Son could answer to God for our sins. He paid a price adequate for all.

At Calvary I must say, nothing in me to satisfy God and nothing I can do more than what He has

done. I can be certain it is enough because not only did He die but He rose again and is now in heaven.

If you trust Him as Saviour you are guaranteed a place in heaven.