

A New Hope #6

10/16/22

John 3-4

1. Drew began his sermon by talking about John 3 and the story of Nicodemus coming to talk to Jesus. Jesus tells him that to be in the kingdom of God, a person must be “born again.” In the past, this phrase was used more often to identify a certain type of Christian: “I am born again” (for example, both Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan said this in their presidential campaigns).

**Should we still use this phrase today, either in talking to Christians or non-Christians?

For more discussion: Nicodemus is confused by the phrase “born again” and Jesus tells him that he does not understand earthly things, therefore he cannot understand heavenly things (John 3:12). Then he tells Nicodemus the story where Moses put a bronze snake on a pole for people to be healed (Numbers 21:6-9) as an example of why he must be put on the cross in order for people to be healed. Next comes the great and well known verse of John 3:16, which we often use without explaining the story of Nicodemus.

**Does this context for John 3:16 change, add to, or enrich its meaning?

2. In John 4, Jesus meets a woman at Jacob’s well in Samaria. One interesting literary aspect of this story is the revelation of who Jesus is as the two continue to talk to each other. The woman goes from thinking Jesus is just a Jew (v. 9), to “sir” (v. 11), a prophet (v. 19), and finally Messiah (v. 25). Drew discussed the role that confession has in knowing who Jesus is, and the role it has in being saved by Jesus.

**What do you understand the role confession to be in your relationship with Jesus? In other words, why do we confess our sins?

For more discussion: One of Drew’s main points was “Before we realize we need saving, we need to be confronted with our own sin.

**If you are willing, describe a time in your life where you were suddenly confronted with your sin. What was that like, and how did God help you move on?

3. Drew described our view of self. He mentioned that this is debated, but he talked about the three parts:

1. Body - the physical vehicle, material, matter
2. Soul - the eternal part of us, who we are, characteristics, personality
3. Spirit - the part that connects with God (is spiritually dead because of sin)

He said that Jesus changes our spirit, and makes it new, alive, reignited... reborn.

**What do you think about the delineation of the three parts (body/soul/spirit)? Is this the right way to view our existence?