

John 2:13-25 & 3:1-4

13-16. Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found **in the TEMPLE** those who **sold oxen and sheep and doves**, and the moneychangers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make **My Father's house** a house of merchandise!"

- **Isaiah 56:7** "Even then I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My _____ of _____. Their burnt _____ and their _____ will be accepted on My altar; for My _____ shall be called a _____ of _____ for all _____."
- **Mark 11:17** "Then He taught, saying to them, 'Is it not written, My house shall be called a house of _____ for all _____? But you have made it a _____ of _____.'"

Definition: "Who SOLD oxen and SHEEP and DOVES" - The Old Testament sacrifices that God required could be bulls, rams, lambs, kids, turtledoves or pigeons, depending on how much a person could afford. The idea was to show **how HORRIBLE sin is in God's sight**, that **an innocent creature** would need to shed its blood to atone for our sins (a picture of Christ's death on the cross, and **the shedding of His blood for our sins**). In Jesus' day, certain men had set up booths and tables to sell the temple sacrifice animals to pilgrims coming to Jerusalem. Not only did they make **a huge profit** off of people who were only trying to worship and obey God, but they had set up their booths in the Court of the Gentiles, which was the only part of the temple available to non-Jews. **Jesus was angry**, because non-Jews ("all nations" - see Isaiah 56:7) **had no place to go to worship and hear the word of God**, because greedy men had taken up all that space for their own selfish purposes.

- **Read Leviticus 5:5-10** (Verses 6-7) "And he shall bring his trespass (sin) _____ to the Lord for his _____ which he has sinned, a female from the flock, a _____ or a kid of the goats as a sin offering. So the priest shall make _____ for him concerning his _____. If he is not able to bring a lamb, then he shall bring to the Lord, for his trespass which he has committed, two turtledoves or two young _____: one as a sin _____ and the other as a burnt offering."
- **Leviticus 17:11** "For the life of the flesh is in the _____; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an _____ for your _____: for it is the _____ that makes an atonement for the soul."
- **Read Hebrews 9:11-14** (Verse 12) "Not with the blood of _____ and _____, but with His (Jesus') own _____ He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption [for us]." (Verse 14) "How much more shall the _____ of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit _____ Himself without spot (without sin) to God, purge your conscience from dead works to _____ the living God?"

Definition: "MONEYCHANGERS" - These moneychangers were con-artists and crooks. Before a person could buy one of the already over-priced animals being sold for the sacrifices, they had to exchange their money for "temple currency" if they had come from another country. This was a scam perpetrated by greedy men, and was never a part of God's sacrificial system.

17. Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."

- **Psalm 69:9** "Because _____ for Your _____ has eaten me up, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me."

18-19. So the Jews answered and said to Him, "**What SIGN do You show to us**, since You do these things?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and **in THREE DAYS I will RAISE it up.**"

- **Matthew 12:38-40** "Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered saying, 'Teacher, we want to see a _____ from You.' But He answered and said to them, 'An _____ and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no _____ will be given to it except the _____ of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was _____ days and _____ nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be _____ days and _____ nights in the _____ of the _____.'"

Definition: "What SIGN do You show to us" - The Jewish leaders wanted proof that Jesus had the AUTHORITY to do what He did in the temple. Remember, a "sign" is a **special miracle to point to WHO Jesus is**, and to SHOW His divine power. Jesus said the only sign that would be given to these men who did not want to believe He was their Messiah, was **the sign of His resurrection from the dead** after "three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

- **I Corinthians 15:3-4** "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ _____ for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was _____, and that He _____ again the _____ day according to the scriptures."

Definition: "According to the SCRIPTURES" - Certain prophetic scriptures in the Old Testament pointed to the death and resurrection of the Messiah (Isaiah 53:1-12; Psalm 22:1-22; Psalm 16:9-11; Psalm 68:18; and Psalm 110:1).

20-21. Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will **You raise it up in three days?**" **But He was speaking of the TEMPLE of His BODY.**

- **I Corinthians 6:19** "Or do you not know that your _____ is the _____ of the _____, who is in you, whom you have from _____, and you are not your own?"
- **II Corinthians 6:16** "And what agreement has the _____ of God with idols? For you are the _____ of the _____ God. As God has said, 'I will _____ in them and walk among them, I will be their God, and they shall be My _____.'"

22. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, **His disciples remembered** that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and **the word** which Jesus had said.

- **Luke 24:6-8** "He is not here, but is risen! _____ how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the _____ day _____ again.' And they _____ His _____."

23-25. Now when He was **in Jerusalem at the Passover**, during the feast, many believed in His name **when they saw the signs which He did**. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for **He knew what was in man.**

- **Acts 2:22** "Men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested by God to you by _____, _____ and _____ which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know."

Definition: "He KNEW what was in man" - Jesus, because He was God in the flesh, was able to "read minds" and know the thoughts of men's hearts. Because He knew the crowds could not be relied upon, He did not trust in His popularity with men, but trusted in God, His Father.

- **Matthew 9:4** "But Jesus, _____ their _____, said, 'Why do you _____ evil in your _____?'"
- **Acts 1:24** "And they prayed and said, 'You, O _____, who _____ the _____ of all; show which of these two you have chosen.'"
- **Psalms 139:1** "O Lord, You have _____ me and _____ me."
- **Psalms 139:23-24** "_____ me, O God, and know my _____; try (test) me and know my anxieties; and see if there is any _____ way in me, and lead me in the way _____."
- **Jeremiah 17:9-10** "The _____ is deceitful above all things, and desperately _____; who can _____ it? I, the Lord, _____ the _____, I test the _____, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."
- **Revelation 2:23** ".....And all the churches shall know that I (Jesus) am He who _____ the _____ and _____. And I will give to each one of you according to your works."

Definition: "In Jerusalem at the PASSOVER" - All devout Jewish men were required to travel to Jerusalem to observe the feast days or holy days. Therefore, when Jesus would go to Jerusalem at these times, there would be devout, God-fearing Jews from all over the Roman Empire there to hear Him preach (see Deuteronomy 16:1-6), and they would take the news about Him back to their countries and towns.

3:1-2. There was a man of the Pharisees named **Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews**. 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**."

- **John 9:16 & 33** "Therefore some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is _____ from _____, because He does not keep the Sabbath.' Others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such _____?' And there was a division among them." (Verse 33) "If this man were not from _____, He could do _____."
- **Acts 10:38** "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power; who went about doing good, and _____ all who were _____ by the devil; for _____ was _____ Him."
- **Read John 7:45-51** (Verses 50-51) "Nicodemus (he who _____ to Jesus by _____, being one of them) said to them 'Does our law judge a man before it hears Him, and knows what He is doing?'"
- **John 19:39-40** "And _____, who at _____ came to Jesus by _____, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury."

Definition: " Nicodemus, a RULER of the Jews" - Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a member of the Sanhedrin, the Supreme Council of the Jews, which was a political as well as a religious body. As far as keeping the Jewish laws was concerned, Nicodemus thought he was RIGHTEOUS before God.

3. Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **BORN AGAIN**, he **cannot see the kingdom of God**."

- **Titus 3:4-6** "But when the _____ and _____ of God our Savior toward man appeared, _____ by _____ of righteousness which we have done, but according to His _____ He saved us, through the washing of _____ and renewing of the Holy Spirit; whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior."
- **Galatians 6:15** "For In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a _____."
- **John 1:13** "Who were _____ not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of _____."
- **I Peter 1:23** "Having been _____, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible."

Definition: "He cannot see the kingdom of God" - Jesus lets Nicodemus (and everyone else) know that it is NOT the keeping of laws, commandments, ordinances, rules, regulations or ANY OUTWARD CONDUCT that makes a person RIGHTEOUS and WORTHY to be a part of God's Kingdom. It must be **an INWARD CHANGE, a NEW BIRTH, a CREATION by GOD** of a COMPLETELY NEW PERSON, for someone to be a part of His Kingdom.

- **Matthew 5:3** "Blessed are the _____ in _____, for theirs is the _____ of heaven."

Definition: "The POOR in SPIRIT" - This means being HUMBLE, having HUMILITY, the opposite of PRIDE. What does this have to do with Jesus saying a person must be born again? Because no one can come to Jesus by faith and be born again, unless they are **"poor in spirit" or humble**, and admit that they cannot earn their way to heaven. This would be the hardest part for someone like Nicodemus, because he thought he already had it made with 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?**"

- **John 1:13** "Who were _____ not of blood, nor of the will of the _____, nor of the will of man, but of _____."

Definition: "Enter a SECOND time into his MOTHER'S WOMB and be BORN" - A second physical birth (from "his mother's womb" or "of the flesh") or TWO THOUSAND physical births would not make a difference. Jesus is talking about **a NEW BIRTH from God!** In fact, the term "born again" could also be translated "BORN FROM ABOVE." **It is a spiritual re-birth from God that we need, not another physical birth.**