

Session 4: Entering the Kingdom of God - "Unless You Are Born Again"

Jesus answered him, ³ "Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.^[a]" ⁴ "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

I. Introduction

Our Key question: *What does it really mean to enter the Kingdom of God?*

2. The Necessity of the New Birth

Verse 3: **"Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."**

Jesus didn't say "try harder" or "be more religious." He didn't say 'go to church more' or "give more".

He said you must be *born again* — that is, a spiritual rebirth. Greek phrase can also be translated "born from above."

Verse 5: "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit ..."

Water may symbolise cleansing (repentance) or allude to baptism.

Spirit refers to the renewing, life-giving work of the Holy Spirit (cf. Ezekiel 36:25–27).

Question: Have you at some time in your life, had such a spiritual re-birth, a transformation, a time where you repented of our sin, and made a 100% commitment to Jesus and allowed his Spirit to come into our lives?

3. What Is the Kingdom of God?

The Kingdom of God is: **God's rule and reign in the hearts of His people, Already present (in Christ), but**

Not yet fully consummated (until Christ returns).

It's not just a place — it's a new way of living under God's kingship.

4. The Response of Nicodemus

Jesus challenges his assumptions.

Even someone like Nicodemus — respected, moral, religious — must be born again. This means salvation is not about: **Family background, Or Moral effort, Or religious rituals.** It's about a new spiritual birth — through repentance and faith.

5 Application: How Do We Enter the Kingdom?

a) **Repentance: Turning from sin.**

Faith: Trusting in Jesus alone — His death and resurrection.

b) **We need to rely on the Holy Spirit**

c) **Live as Citizens of the Kingdom**

6. Conclusion and Call to Respond

Jesus didn't come to make us better — He came to make us new.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation..." (2 Cor. 5:17)

Have you been born again?

A prayer:- Father God I acknowledge that I tend to live life my way not yours. Please forgive me for everything I have chosen my way and sinned and not chosen to follow you. Thank you that Jesus died on the cross for my sin, then rose again, demonstrating that death had been conquered, sin no longer was a barrier between us and God, and then sent the Holy spirit to empower Christians to live life your way.

Please, through repentance and faith, give me a spiritual rebirth and daily transform my life more and more into the image of Jesus. Please live in my life, from this day forward, through your holy spirit, helping me to live your Kingdom values every day here on earth, and one day, I look forward to seeing you face to face, and spending all eternity with you, and all who have been born again. For I ask all these things in Jesus name. **Amen.**

Some questions to reflect on this week

[] Before this sermon, if someone asked you *'What does it really mean to enter the Kingdom of God?'* what might you have said?

[] Has your view/opinion/belief changed as a result of this sermon? What impact might that have in your life going forward and your desire for others?

2. The Necessity of the New Birth

[] Before today, what was your view of 'born again' Christians?

[] What is your view or understanding now? [] would you describe yourself as one?

3. What Is the Kingdom of God?

The Kingdom of God is: **God's rule and reign in the hearts of His people, Already present (in Christ)**, but

[] Think back over the past week, the major decisions or actions made/taken. Did you stop, pause and consider whether there was a kingdom principle involved before acting? As you look back, are there actions or decision which now, if you had chance to make them again, you'd do differently as you consider kingdom actions and values?

4. The Response of Nicodemus

Nicodemus had a core question for Jesus. If you had 30 minutes one to one with Jesus, write down as many question you'd ask him:-

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[] Whilst we can ask them in prayer, many answers can be found in the Bible, and/or through Christian books or talking to other Christians/the Vicar about them. Which questions would you like to start with and try to find answers to?

6 Application: How Do We Enter the Kingdom?

Repentance: Turning from sin.

Faith: Trusting in Jesus alone — His death and resurrection.

We need to rely on the Holy Spirit to live as Citizens of the Kingdom

[] what aspects about being a Christian, or living our faith do you most find difficult?

[] pray about those now and ask the Holy Spirit to help you.

6. Conclusion and Call to Respond

Jesus didn't come to make us better — He came to make us new.
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation..." (2 Cor. 5:17)

[] Did you pray the prayer on Sunday – of so, please see Paul.

Please pray for others who may have prayed that prayer for the first time.

