

**Gospel of
John**
Thursday Morning
Bible Class

John 3:10–36

1

Nicodemus – 3:10-15
 †10-13 –Nicodemus needs to be “reborn” because he knows what the scripture says, but doesn’t understand what Jesus tells him.
 †14 – Moses “lifted up” the serpent. Num. 21:6-9.
 †Jesus doesn’t just quote scripture, he becomes one with it. He is the serpent who is lifted up.

2

Nicodemus – 3:10-15
 †14 – The “pole” or standard has messianic connections. The Messiah was seen as the “standard” for the people. Is. 8:3.
 †15 -Jesus was connecting the prophecies about the standard with the pole Moses lifted up and with himself.

3

God’s Abundant Love – 3:16-21

†16 – God loved the world with an abundant love. This is like quoting the first line of “Amazing Grace.”

†Jesus is quoting a prayer that Nicodemus would have said every day. But Jesus is saying that the “abundant love” of God is coming to fruition in him.

4

God’s Abundant Love – 3:16-21

†17 – Jesus is the light that has come into the world, not to condemn, but to save.

†“Son of Man” – Jesus’ favorite title for himself. It comes from Ezekiel. The Hebrew word for “man” is “adam” Son of Adam.

†18 – To believe in the name of Jesus is to submit to his authority.

5

God’s Abundant Love – 3:16-21

†19 – The words of Jesus take us back to the opening verses of John’s Gospel. The light has come into the world.

†20 – the Light exposes. Darkness hides evil.

†21 – Those who have come into the light will live lives that show they are serving the Lord.

6

He must increase – 3:22-30

†22 – “After these things” – Jesus has been in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, and captured the attention of Nicodemus. Now he goes out into the Judean countryside.
†Jesus did what John did – call people to repentance and baptize them.

7

He must increase – 3:22-30

†23 – As Jesus begins his ministry, he is carrying on the ministry of John. At this point Jesus role is passive. That will change after John is put in prison.
†John and Jesus are in two separate areas. John is in Samaria, at the Spring of Salim.
†24 – John the Baptist has not yet been put in prison – a hint that this will be important.

8

He must increase – 3:22-30

†25 – Competition? A “certain Jew” questions John’s disciples about purification.
†26 – They report to John the Baptist that Jesus is drawing a bigger crowd!
†27-28 – Any success comes from God. He reminds them that he is the forerunner.

9

He must increase – 3:22-30

†29 – John uses a parable that expresses his joy. This is what he and Jesus wanted.
†“Friend of the bridegroom” is a special role in the 1st century. He is the agent of the groom.
†He made the arrangements between bride and groom, insured the chastity of the bride, and delivered her to the groom on the wedding day. John says this was his role.

10

He must increase – 3:22-30

†30 – Jesus will go on increasing, while John will decrease.
†Whatever our vocation, are we decreasing while Christ increases? Do people see Christ at work in us?

11

The One from above – 3:31-36

†31-36 is John’s commentary on what he has written so far.
†4 levels to encounter Scripture
†Mark – the basic story.
†Luke – Adds extra commentary to Mark.
†Matthew – The teaching level. Being a disciple.
†John – the mysterious level.

12

The One from above – 3:31-36

†The other three Gospels speak of calling people to repent because the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

†John says, “whoever comes to the light”

†John is contrasting the earthly Adam with the heavenly Adam. 1 Cor. 15:47

13

The One from above – 3:31-36

†John is giving us a commentary on Ps. 8.

†John is talking about the second Adam, the one who sees things from above.

†Most of the time, we earthly beings are caught up with the things of the world. We keep chasing the wrong things. Thus we are not able to catch the supernatural revelation from above.

14

The One from above – 3:31-36

†Ps. 8:6-8 – The earthly Adam named the animals and had authority over them.

†The second Adam was made a little lower than angels, and anyone who believes in the Son has eternal life.

†Read Ps. 8 and ask yourself what it tells you about Jesus.

15