

“A New Birth”

John 3:1-10

July 10: 2022

Butterflies are caterpillars that have been transformed. Caterpillars are ugly, slimy, and slow. I don't find much redeeming value in caterpillars. Most of the time, I find myself stepping on them.

But once the caterpillar converts to a butterfly, all of a sudden, something new is born. Something old and ugly, something that was rejected, something that deserved to be stepped on, now begins to change. The process of change is a little uncomfortable and a little inconvenient. For a while, it looks like things are getting worse rather than better. That's because something is changing on the inside. After the cocooning process is over, and the shell flips open, all of a sudden the thing that used to be grounded can now fly. The thing that used to be a parasite now pollinates. Something beautiful has come out of something that was ugly.

Now, a butterfly is not a fixed up caterpillar. A butterfly is a totally new creature that was birthed out of a caterpillar. But it's not a caterpillar. It is a brand spanking new being.⁷⁹⁸

Evans, T. (2009).

Title {A New Birth}
Scripture {John 3:1-10}

Let us stand in honor of reading God's Word.

3 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This 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.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus 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?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?

You may be seated...

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John wrote his gospel a.d. 80–90 {The synoptics were already written by this time.}

3 Now there was a man of the **Pharisees** {The most conservative, they believe God's Commandments so much so that they then added many more, they believed in the angels, the resurrection etc.} named Nicodemus, **a ruler** of the Jews. {Sanhedrin} {One of the the most respected men in Jerusalem, The Bible Answer Man if you will, and a strict conservative} This man came to Jesus **by night** {Nick would have been too embarrassed b/c he was "The Teacher" and also read verse 19 Nick is still in the dark, still in sin, John gives us a insight to this} {unique to John's writing "by night" only found in John the contrast of night/day darkness/light not found in the synoptics} and said to him, "**Rabbi**, {Nick realizes he does not have all the answers, "Rabbi"} **we** know that you are a teacher come from God, {Jesus is more than a teacher, carpenter, The God Man etc} for no one can do these **signs** {Meaning miracles, wonders, unique to the Gospel of John but instead means that its a miracle with a message} that you do **unless God is with him.**"

{Nick had everything going for him, power, position, prestige, piety but he was as lost and blind as can be.} Many people in the churches are just like him, in the right place, have the right answers, they seem to be religious, they know the pastor, they know church but they do not know Christ, they are lost.

³Jesus answered him, "**Truly, truly**, I say to you, **unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.**" F.F. Bruce says "It is very difficult with a person who has adult experience to revert to the simplicity of childhood." ⁴Nicodemus 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?"

⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. {The different takes on water & Spirit, baptism, natural birth, allegorical water/cleansing etc} That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. {Living in the Flesh b/c still fleshy or spiritually b/c of the new birth?} ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind {*pneuma*=wind, water, breathe} blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." {Supernatural act on God's part}

⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you **the teacher** {ος = definite article THE} of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. Verse 19

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is ⁱa new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. II. Corinthians 5:17

“Are you born again?” Like the caterpillar changed, has there been a change in your life b/c of your encounter with Christ? Unless one is born again he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

Born once, die twice, born twice die once.



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John 3:1-10



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