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We've Been Born Again

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"WE ARE FAMILY....."

(1.)

WE'VE BEEN BORN AGAIN I Pet. 1:23.**LESSON:** One premise=Nicodemus wanted to be in God's Family.* Reading: John 3:1-10.**I. SETTING: Nicodemus and his World.**

1. A Jew: chosen race since 2,247 B. C. (22 centuries)
2. A Pharisee: best rel. group! Gone awry. Sincere in nefarious crimes against the people. % Matt. 23.
Limited membership: 6,000. Pol.-rel.
3. A Ruler: man of power, influence and wealth *Lawyer*
4. A Scribe: (Sanhedrin=70.) High Priests, Elders, and Scribes; Copier! Interpreter! Supreme Court!
5. All Pharisees—self-appointed Investigators of "new thought", Dangerous—heresy and any challenges to the MISHNAH (scribal codified inter. of O. T.)

ALSO: the TALMUD (scribal commentary on the Mishnah at all**II. MARVEL: that such a high-official would come to Jesus/**A. Why did he? Why at NIGHT?

1. Curious & a coward? John 12:42. Or, Caution?
2. Convenience: Quiet. Unhurried. Usual study time!
3. Investigation: personal or official of the new and popular Rabbi=homeless, penniless prophet & *carpenter*.
OR:
Prophecies!
4. Knew the Old Law: Aware of John the Baptist's startling-claims: Messiah is HERE! Had to see!!

III. HIS WORLD:

- A. Gentiles without God or a Law. Not IN Spr. family.
- B. Jews: under oppressive Law-system: 666 prohibitions

III. MISHNA: Subject: Sabbath=24 ch. on details.

TALMUD: 64½ cols. of overburdening details...

- C. Romans galling the Jews daily with oppressive-occupation; sacrileges of all kinds, and desecration of many Holy Places. Caesar-worshippers. Idolat

QUESTION: Possible a ray of HOPE? Jesus the ONE!?? *ORS*

1. Assume Jewish throne for world empire?
2. Drive the hated-Romans into the sea---Rome.?
3. Unburden the Race of the UNBEARABLE O. T. LAW?

IV. WHAT DID NICODEMUS ASK?A. "How do you do THAT?"—you perform or SEEM TO perform miracles. I'm interested! (WHO WASN'T??)B. "What's up? What's the BOTTOM LINE?" where lead to

(over ↓)

L.W.V. 7-1-91 A.M.

(2.)

- C. "Is there a place for ME in this new MOVEMENT?"
"I'd like to be in on the ground floor. Rt. hand open?"
- D. "I have been in God's Select Family and I'm open to change to SOMETHING BETTER! NEW & BETTER FAMILY?"

V. THE LORD'S RESPONSE:

8

1. "ARE YOU SERIOUS?" Know what you're saying? Known
2. "I'll give you a TRY!" "YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!!!!"
(Gr. "ANEW. 2nd time. FROM ABOVE."
3. READY TO BECOME A NEW YOU? New: Way. Law. Leader. Inst
(New & living way: Heb. 10:16-20. New Lifestyle. Rom. 6:4
New Spirit & attitude: Rom. 7:6. New Family. I C. 12:13
New Approach (love): I John 4:7. New Wardrobe. Gal. 3:27.
New Viewpoint toward sin: I J. 2:29, 3:9, 5:4 & 5:18.
4. Tell you what's going to effect this TRANSFORMATION:
a. Gospel. I Cor. 4:15. Word of GOD. I Pet. 1:23.
Word of TRUTH. Jas. 1:18. Will of GOD. John 1:13.
5. Expect FOUR highly visible CHANGES in your lifestyle.
a. Those who are Born of God BELIEVE in Jesus to - death
I J. 5:1.
b. Begotten into a LIVELY HOPE. I Pet. 1:3.
c. Anticipate growth from milk to meat. Spr. I Pet. 2:2.
d. Adjust into a Completely New Design of Life. I C. 5:17.
* Gal. 3:25-29. Puts you into God's Spr. FAMILY.

VI. QUESTION: DID NICODEMUS RESPOND FAVORABLY TO JESUS??

1. John 3:1-21 leaves the matter in question. "Need time to think!" "Weigh the matter!" "Need to talk to the family!"
2. * John 7:45-53. He in the Kingdom (family)? / Not yet. On way
3. * John 19:38-42. He in the Kingdom (family)? / On the Way!!!
4. * Acts 2:41, 5:12-16, 6:7-8. He in the family now?

SMITH'S DICT: "Baptized by Peter & John."

PULPIT COMM. P. 111. "Tradition: Bap. by Peter & John".

Expelled from Sanhedrin. Supported by kinsman, Gamaliel; Dr. of Jewish law; teacher of Paul and descendent of King David. Note: Jesus was from the blood-line of King David. A sympathizer!

V. YOUR TEST: How complete your Spr. Birth into Christ? 100%

1. * Rom. 6:3-8. Grown into living image of Jesus?
2. * Col. 3:1-4. Ready, Comfortable: appear with Him - glory
3. * Gal. 5:22-25. If SAY walking with Jesus: - daily routine-activities the acid test - PROOF. DO!

Cleburn - Westside. 7-28-91. A.M.

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