

Sermon Series: John's Gospel- Encounters with Jesus

Jesus and Nicodemus

Read John 3.1-21

1. Why is it significant that Nicodemus is introduced as a Pharisee? What does this tell us about him? (John 3.1).
2. In what kinds of ways might *religious* people today try to make themselves good, make themselves new?
3. How might *secular, irreligious*, Australians also pursue the great quest to make ourselves good?
4. How does Jesus respond to the great human quest to make ourselves good? (John 3.3 & verse 5).
5. What are the two analogies Jesus uses to describe the radical change that must occur if we are to become new? (John 3.3-8).
6. Why is the analogy of 'new birth' important? What does it tell us about the change that must occur in us?
7. What is the source of our new birth?
8. What Old Testament passages do you know, which predict the out pouring of the Spirit and the renewal of hearts? Choose a passage and explain why you find encouraging about it. (Examples: Ezekiel 36.24-27; Isaiah 11.1-4 or 44.1-5)
9. Why is prayer so important, as we go about serving family, friend and neighbour?