

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

August 14, 2016 – Defining Moments

The day you realize that some of the things that make you mad are things others would love to have ...

John 3

1 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, (he didn't want anyone to see him) "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." Nicodemus believed Jesus was FROM God, not GOD; he wondered when the Messiah was going to come and deliver them from Rome because it was his job to recognize the Savior when he came.

He wanted to ask Jesus about this, but before he could ask, Jesus answered his question. Jesus knew what people were going to ask before they asked it, and it was always weird for people...

3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born again. 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!" Can they?

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. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to Spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

9 "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. Sounds impossible.

Yale physicist, Robert Adair, said it was impossible in baseball to hit a 90mph fast ball. 90mph/60 ½ feet, 400 milli seconds=1/2 second to get from home plate...200 m/s to find the ball, 100 m/s to decide where and if to swing, 150 m/s to get bat from rest to full motion...

Conclusion: impossible to hit a 90 mph fast ball – undeniable.

However, on October 6, 2001 in Minute Made Park, Houston, TX – Wilfredo Rodriguez threw a 94mph, 95mph and a 97mph ball. Barry Bonds hit the 97mph ball 427 feet over the right field wall for home run #70, tying the record!

10 You are Israel's teacher, said Jesus, and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.

Nicodemus believe that God has a big scale and the good has to outweigh the bad. One problem is that we tend to think our good is better than it really is and our bad is not as bad as it is.

He also thought if you were related to Abraham, you were IN with God no matter what!

12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, (all of the Israelites got sick one day in the dessert and Moses took his staff that had a snake head carved into it and told everyone to look at it, the ones who looked at it were healed ***so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. The John comments on what Jesus said ***16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.******

Romans 8:2-4

2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death (Oh! That clears it up) There are two laws (systems) at work here and they both co-exist at the same time but one over powers the other.

Law of the Spirit of life – law of grace and forgiveness, you're always IN based on what Jesus did, not on what you have done or are going to do.

Law of Sin and Death – cause and effect – when you sin something dies, you tell a lie and trust dies, have an affair and a marriage dies, you get what you deserve, we spend our lives under this law.

3 For what the law (trying to do your best) was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, (the law can't save you, it can only condemn you) God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, (God does not condemn us he condemns sin)

Keeping the rules does not get you saved and it doesn't keep you in good graces with God. What we could not do, God did.

God wants us to view ourselves through this lens.

4 In order that the righteous requirements of the law (the law requires perfection) ***might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.***

This morning we have an opportunity, a choice through what Jesus has done for us, to live according to cause and effect (God loves me if I perform) or to accept what Jesus did and live uncondemnable, Jesus took all the penalty for mine and your sins.

Maybe this morning you don't know where you stand with God, you're trying to do it right but you fail more than you succeed. If you're still trying to earn God's forgiveness, you have never accepted the gift of forgiveness.

One day Nicodemus was in a meeting where all the members decided they had to kill Jesus, and he disagreed, but they shut him down, later after Jesus died, guess who showed up to take care of his body, Nicodemus.

The truth is like a flashlight.

Good people don't go to haven.
Forgiven people go to heaven.

Prayer of Salvation

Jesus, I place all my trust in what you have done for me on the cross, not what I have done or will do...Give me the gift of eternal life.