

*Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John*  
July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
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### **Why Good People Need Jesus (John 3:1-21)**

#### **1. Because our goodness isn't as good as we thought (vv. 1-13)**

#### **2. Because our lostness is worse than we feared (vv. 14-21)**

**For further thought and discussion:**

#### **Getting Started**

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Imagine you were interviewing for a new job. What personal accomplishments would you mention? Which of your character qualities or skills would you highlight?

#### **Going Deeper**

3. How does John portray Nicodemus (vv. 1-2)? What does he represent? Why does he come to Jesus? Is he totally sincere (compare v. 1 with 2:23-25)? Why is it significant that he comes to Jesus *"at night"* (see John 9:4; 11:10; 13:30)?
4. Why would Jesus' response to Nicodemus (v. 3) have been jarring? Why did Nicodemus think he would see/enter the kingdom of God? What does Jesus say is required? What does it mean to be born *"of water and spirit"* (v. 5; see Ezekiel 36:25-26)? How does Jesus' teaching undercut all of our attempts to enter God's kingdom (see 1:12-13)?
5. Compare vv. 14-15 and Numbers 21:1-9. What happened to Israel in the desert? How was Israel delivered? What is Jesus saying about the world's spiritual condition (including Nicodemus)? How will the world (including Nicodemus) be delivered? When will Jesus be *"lifted up"* (see John 12:32-34)?
6. In verses 16-21, John provides his own editorial on Jesus' interaction with Nicodemus. What truths does John think we can glean from this encounter? What motivated God to send Jesus (vv. 16-17)? How does Jesus expose the world's true spiritual condition? What keeps people from coming to Jesus? Why would people be reluctant to come to Christ? What must we acknowledge/relinquish?

### **Application**

7. Jeff mentioned that Jesus gives us an identity we receive, rather than one we achieve. What identity does he give us (see 1:12-13)? Why is it paralyzing to try and discover, achieve or establish our own identity? How have you tried to do this? How does receiving an identity from Jesus liberate us?
8. What's one way you can apply this passage this week?