

\* Prayers Anchored in the  
Gospel of John

John 2:23–3:15

Sunday, February 16, 2014

\* Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# \* The Collect

Collecting your thoughts so you can focus  
on God.

## John 2:23–3:15 (NIV)

- \* <sup>23</sup> Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name.<sup>24</sup> But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. <sup>25</sup> He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.
- \* <sup>3:1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, “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.”
- \* <sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”
- \* <sup>4</sup> “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!”
- \* <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> 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.”
- \* <sup>9</sup> “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.
- \* <sup>10</sup> “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

- \* Today is a day to simply introduce yourself to the text for the week.
- \* Read it over slowly several times in a leisurely way and reverential manner.
- \* Feed on the word. Let the powerful word of God begin its work in you this week as you ponder Jesus' late night meeting with Nicodemus.



## \* Meditation

*For audio version of passage (John 3), visit  
<http://www.biblegateway.com/audio/dramatized/niv/John.3>*

“Very truly I tell you, no one can *see* the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.”  
(Matt. 5:8)

“But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. <sup>17</sup> For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.” (Matt. 13:16-17)

“‘Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, ...he will come to save you.’ <sup>5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. (Isa. 35:4-5)



\* Meditation

We receive the following prayer from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians:

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.” (Eph. 1:18)

 **Blessing**