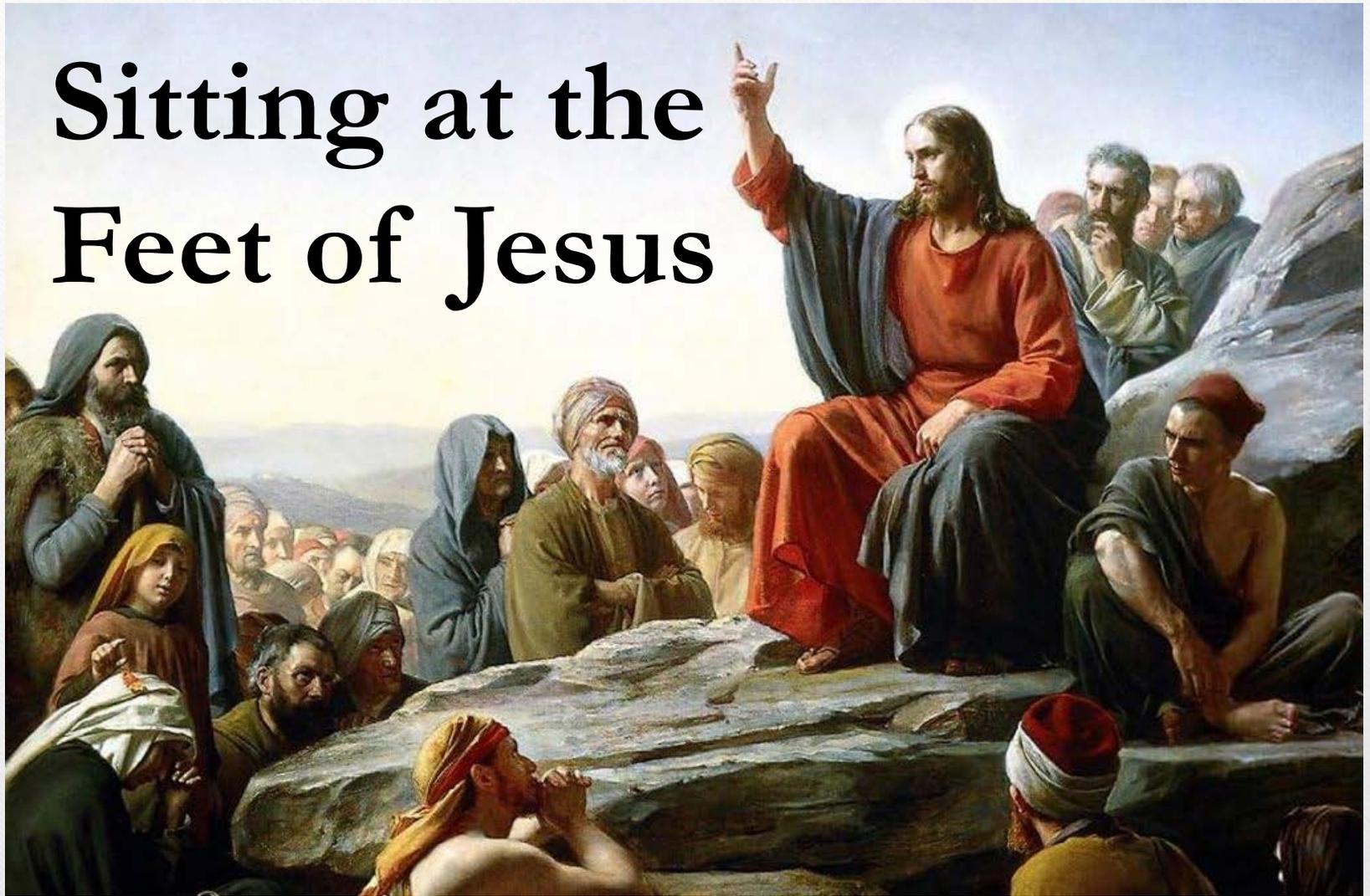


Sitting at the Feet of Jesus



Born Again

John 3:1-21

John 3: 1-2

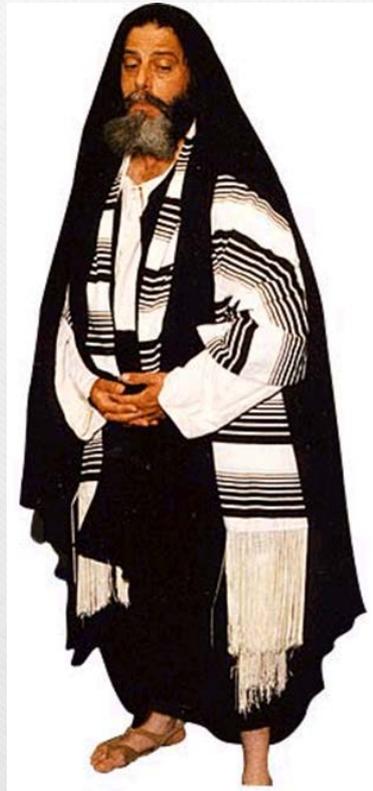
Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him,

John 3: 1-2

*“Rabbi, we know that
You have come from God
as a teacher; for no one
can do these signs that
You do unless God is
with him.”*

Question

What is a Pharisee?



Pharisee

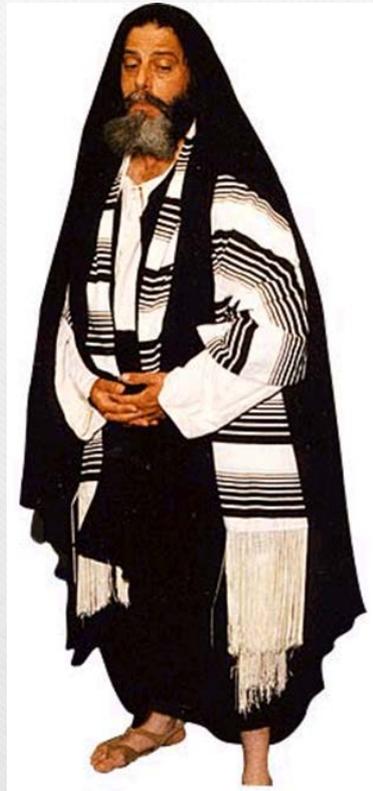
Pharisees were an elite group of teachers and political leaders who obeyed the Law as well as all the rabbinic traditions. They were the most devoted of all Jews to the Old Testament and every bit of their Jewish tradition.

Daniel 5: 25

“Now this is the inscription that was written out: ‘MENĒ, MENĒ, TEKĒL, UPHARSIN.’

Question

Who was Nicodemus?



Nicodemus

- Verse 10 tells us he's **the** teacher in Israel
- He's a member of the Sanhedrin
- According to one extra-biblical source, the Talmud, he was one of the three most wealthy men in Jerusalem.

Nicodemus

- He is an Old Testament expert
- He is extremely intelligent
- He is immensely successful
- He has great authority
- He was a ruler of the Jews

John 3: 1-2

*Now there was a man
of the Pharisees,
named Nicodemus, a
ruler of the Jews; **this**
man came to Jesus
by night and said to
Him,*

Question

Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus at night?

John 3: 1-2

*“Rabbi, we know that
You have come from God
as a teacher; for no one
can do these signs that
You do unless God is
with him.”*

Question

Why does Nicodemus think Jesus has come from God?

Exodus 4: 1-5

Then Moses said, “What if they will not believe me or listen to what I say? For they may say, ‘The Lord has not appeared to you.’”

The Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” And he said, “A staff.”

Exodus 4: 1-5

Then He said, “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. But the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand and grasp it by its tail

Exodus 4: 1-5

so he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand“ that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”

Question

Do you think Nicodemus
feels he is equal to
Jesus?

John 3: 3

Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Question

What question from
Nicodemus is Jesus
answering?

John 3: 1-2

Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him,

John 3: 1-2

*“Rabbi, we know that
You have come from God
as a teacher; for no one
can do these signs that
You do unless God is
with him.”*

Question

If you were Nicodemus,
how would you have
responded to this
statement by Jesus?

John 3: 4

*Nicodemus said to Him,
“How can a man be
born when he is old?
He cannot enter a
second time into his
mother’s womb and be
born, can he?”*

John 3: 5

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Question

What does it mean when
Jesus says truly, truly?

Question

What do you think Jesus means when he says “*unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*” ?

Luke 7: 29-30 (NIV)

All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John.

Luke 7: 29-30 (NIV)

*But the **Pharisees** and the experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.*

John 3: 6

*That which is born of the
flesh is flesh, and that
which is born of the
Spirit is spirit.*

1 Corinthians 2:14

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

Clarification

I think Jesus is clarifying that if you are not born of the spirit you cannot understand what He is saying.

John 3: 7

Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

Question

Why do you think Jesus makes this statement?

Hint: Matthew 9:4

Matthew 9: 4

*And Jesus knowing
their thoughts said,
"Why are you thinking
evil in your hearts?"*

John 3: 8

The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Question

What is Jesus clarifying
to Nicodemus Here?

How does that apply to
us today?

John 3: 9

*Nicodemus said to Him,
“How can these things
be?”*

Question

Does it sound like
Nicodemus understood
the words of Jesus?

John 3: 10

Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?”

Question

How do you think this statement from Jesus came across?

John 3: 11

*Truly, truly, I say to you,
we speak of what we
know and testify of what
we have seen, and you
do not accept our
testimony.*

John 3: 12

If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

Question

What is Jesus trying to get Nicodemus to understand?

John 3: 13

*No one has ascended
into heaven, but He who
descended from heaven:
the Son of Man.*

Question

What is Jesus trying to get Nicodemus to understand now?

John 3: 14

*As Moses lifted up the
serpent in the
wilderness, even so must
the Son of Man be lifted
up;*

Question

What is Jesus
referencing here?

Numbers 21: 6-9

*The Lord sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. So the people came to Moses and said, “**We have sinned**, because we have spoken against the Lord and you;*

Numbers 21: 6-9

intercede with the Lord,
that He may remove the
serpents from us.” And
Moses **interceded** for the
people.

Numbers 21: 6-9

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live.”

Hebrews 7: 25

*Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives **to make intercession** for them.*

Question

What is a standard?

Was Jesus lifted up on a wooden post?

Numbers 21: 6-9

And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived.

Question

What so what does Jesus mean in this statement?

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up”

John 12: 32-33

And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.” But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die.

John 3: 14

*As Moses lifted up the
serpent in the
wilderness, even so must
the Son of Man be lifted
up;*

John 3: 15

*so that whoever believes
will in Him have eternal
life.*

Question

What is Jesus clarifying here?

Hint: does it require just looking upon the crucified Jesus like the bronze serpent?

John 3: 16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Question

Notice we are again told that those who believe will have eternal life so what does it mean to believe in someone?

Matthew 7: 21

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”

James 2: 19-20

You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

Question

What group of people
did Jesus die for?

John 3: 17

For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

Question

Why was Jesus sent into the world?

What will be the mission of Jesus when he returns again?

2 Thessalonians 1: 7-8 (NLT)

And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven.

2 Thessalonians 1: 7-8 (NLT)

*He will come with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on **those who refuse to obey** the Good News of our Lord Jesus.*

Question

Who is Judgement coming upon, those who have not believed or those who refuse to obey?

John 3: 18

*He who believes in Him
is not judged; he who
does not believe has
been judged already,
because he has not
believed in the name of
the only begotten Son of
God.*

Question

Why are those who do not believe already judged?

Question

What does it mean to
judge someone?

Genesis 19: 6-7

So Lot stepped outside to talk to them, shutting the door behind him.

“Please, my brothers,” he begged, “don’t do such a wicked thing.”

Genesis 19: 9

“Stand back!” they shouted.

*“This fellow came to town
as an outsider, and now*

***he’s acting like our
judge!** We’ll treat you far
worse than those other
men!” And they lunged
toward Lot to break down
the door.*

John 3: 19

*This is the judgment,
that the Light has come
into the world, and men
loved the darkness
rather than the Light, for
their deeds were evil.*

John 3: 20

For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

John 3: 21

But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

Question

Note the Light is
capitalized, who is the
Light?

Question

What do these verses
clarify John 3:16?

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Question

How is Jesus clarifying John 3:16 by saying he who practices the truth comes to Him and not he who believes the truth?

1 John 1:5-7

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5-7

If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth

1 John 1:5-7

but if we walk in the
Light as He Himself is in
the Light, we have
fellowship with one
another, and the blood
of Jesus His Son
cleanses us from all sin.