

1 & 2

..... in verses/which we read last Sunday and then we'll move right into the rest of the chapter. The Greek says 'NOW' there was a man (read V.1 of Ch. 3). Two things that tells us about this man. He was a Pharisee and this meant that he gave attention to the law in all of its detail. As a matter of fact, before he could even become a Pharisee, he had to make a public pledge that he would keep every minute detail of the law.

Went to church three times a day, prayed three times a day, he faster on Tuesday and Thursday, gave 22 and a half percent of his money. Here was a man who was totally and absolutely devoted to a religious system. He was also ruler of the Jews, which means ~~xxx~~ that he sat on the Jewish Supreme Court. He was one of the seventy big names in Jerusalem and V. 10 says 'he was THE teacher of Israel'. This man was the head of the Department of Religious Education.

He was the professor of Theology, he was the authority on doctrine, here was the man that was consulted. An amazing man, indeed. He comes to Jesus by night, V. 2 says. No need to debate why he came by night. This is certainly true and in John 7 and in John 19, Nicodemus's name comes up again and it says 'the one who came to Jesus by night'.

I believe there is a hidden mystical meaning in this term. I believe 'by night' is the fact that it was night (I think it was physically dark) but there was darkness in his soul. Because he had religion, but he didn't have Christ and he did not have life of God.

He called Jesus Rabbi, which is the Greek word for 'my teacher' and he ~~recognized~~ Jesus as a teacher. He said 'we'. He didn't say 'I'. He's talking for somebody more than himself. He's talking for the whole religious establishment. He

says 'we know Thou art a teacher come from God'/ Nicodemus knew that Jesus had been performing miracles . Nicodemus really had that term turned around. He's not a teacher come from God. He's God, come as a Teacher.

IV Nicodemus, of course, was a politician. He begins with a compliment, you see. And I guess he thinks maybe that Jesus is going to politic with him. Now I am convinced, though this can never be proved, that we have an abridged report of the conversation. I would be inclined to believe that they talked for a couple of hours and I think all we have is the very briefest report of what went on.

John tells us in the Gospel that we have only just a little bit, of what Jesus really did. I believe that before Jesus ever talked to Nicodemus, that they had had a discussion ~~xxx~~ about the Kingdom of God. And while I can't prove it, it's pretty heavily implied in what Jesus says to Nicodemus. And I believe that Nicodemus told Him, plain, that 'I'm in the Kingdom because I'm a Jew. I'm in the Kingdom because the blood of Abraham is in my veins. I'm in the Kingdom and I don't need anything else.'

So against that background, Jesus comes and answers him in V.3 (read) 'verily, verily' (that's truly, truly) 'I say' (I solemnly declare unto you). This is the most forceful way that Jesus could say it. 'I solemnly declare unto you, except (unless) a man (but in the Greek, it's not 'man' - it's the Greek word 'tis' a little word but it means anyone) except ANYONE is what He was saying.

Except anyone be born again, he cannot see - he has no understanding of the Kingdom. Now later on, He's gonna say in V. 5 'he cannot enter' but he has no idea of the Kingdom. You know this is certainly true. A man,,, until a man has been born again, he simply cannot perceive and comprehend spiritual

things. You talk to him, he can't see it.

It's not his fault. We ought not expect people to see it. You talk about the prayer in your life - the man who's not been born again, does not understand this. You talk about the Bible being exciting, he doesn't see that. You talk about really loving to go to church; even on Wednesday nights, to Prayer Meeting; like to go out and talk to people about Jesus - he doesn't SEE this. These things of the Kingdom. He can't see it.

✓ Because, you see, he's in another kingdom. And so often, we try to make people 'Kingdom People' who are not even IN the Kingdom and we make a great mistake. We should not go to a man, who's not been born again and say 'you ought to pray; you ought to read your Bible; you ought to come to church. That's not what we ought to do. We ought to seek to show that man HOW he can come into a relationship whereby these things will be wonderful in his life and he'll love them.

No need - no need - actually, to even tell a drunkard that what he needs to do is to straighten up and quit his drinking. That's not the chief thing. There's no need to abuse a man in his sin. What he needs is the Gospel. What he needs is to hear the message that will bring him into another world whereby these things will be a part of his life, which he, himself, will appreciate and enjoy with all of his soul.

And until that happens, you jsut can't do anything with the man. And sometimes, we simply do not understand that. Sometimes, we go to church and the message we hear is 'do this, do that' when we CAN'T do this and do that. There's something else that's got to happen. A man's got to be changed in his inner life, before he's ABLE to respond to the Lord and before he has spiritual life, within

himself.

Now, let me pause right here and raise this question: why is this true? Because without the New Birth, you and I cannot function as God intended us to function. As a matter of fact, we're only half people, without the New Birth. The most vital part of us is dead and is not functioning. Our spirit is dead, without the New Birth. Therefore, we're unable to respond to the love of God and we're unable to receive the blessings of God because we are dead, in that area that would respond to God.

sm - Good light bulb no good unless plugged into electrical power.

Our spirit's dead, Scrip. says. So, you have a lightbulb, a lamp that's a perfectly good lamp, say. But it doesn't function unless it's plugged into its electrical source. Man cannot function as God intended him to function, until he's plugged in to Life - plugged into JC. Now what happened go man?

God made him in His own image. That's right. Something tragic happened to man, the Bible tells us about. In ^{Gen} Matt. 5:3. The Bible says that Adam begot a son in his own likeness. Now when we were created, we were created in the image of God. But when man sinned, the image of God was not completely destroyed, but it was so blurred and so blotted out until man, in his natural estate, is described as being dead.

Dead in trespasses and sin. You see, it is SIN that has deadened the soul. If you can find ONE man in this world who has never sinned, I will show you a man that doesn't need to be born again. I do not believe there's anyone here today that would say 'I've never sinned'. If you can find ONE man who has never sinned, all right. He does not need to be born again. But the Bible says in Rom. 3:23 (read) which doesn't mean that we've all murdered. But it means that we are born in a state of sin, with a tendency to sin and that we do things

all the time that's contrary to the will of God.

So this is true of Nicodemus, a religious man, as well as it is a man in the gutter. A man may not be as ~~bad~~ off as another man, as people would see it, but just to be a human being is to be IN sin and to be dead in our spiritual life and to be unable to rise up to God. We try and we try - we go to the psychologist, we read the books but we're defeated. We can't do it.

The very nature of man says that he must be Born Again or he can't function. He just cannot function as ~~God~~ God made him to function. But when he is born again, Paul says it's like being created all over again. It's like becoming a new person. God infuses in to the life a dimension that was not known before a life that is not there and a man - a new world opens to him.

Even the sun looks different. The flowers look different. The world is absolutely changed. It doesn't mean he's perfect and it doesn't mean that he won't stumble; it doesn't mean he won't have some more problems --- I do not mean to imply that --- but it DOES mean that he has entered a New World. Because his spirit has been quickened and he knows God and is in touch with GOD. And this must happen in a person's life and we should never back off from it. We should never LOOK upon the message as being a message of judgment.

It's the greatest message that could ever be heard by any man. The fact that I; the fact that YOU - mortal man - can receive a new life from God. This is what the ~~W~~HOLE world is waiting for. This is the great need of man, above everything else in the world. With this, if you didn't have a thing but the New Birth, you've got God and you're going to Heaven. And if you had everything in this world, WITHOUT the New Birth, you're without God and you can't go to Heaven.

So Jesus says that to Nicodemus. Now Nicodemus misunderstood Him. Jesus said 'unless anyone be born again, (and, of course, He was speaking in another language - certainly not English). AND the word Jesus used - ⁽¹⁾ this word 'again' is the word 'anōthen' which has a two-fold meaning. It means a 'second time' ⁽²⁾ and it means 'from above'.

Nic. thought in terms of reincarnation

Now Nicodemus immediately latched on to the thought that it meant a second physical birth. And reincarnation is not new. Everything that's taught, falsely, in this world today is described in the Word of God. Nicodemus was looking at a type of reincarnation in which man could come back in a second form, out of his mother's womb. He was thinking of a second physical birth.

But you see, that will not meet the answer. That's not the answer to our need. If we were born ^{the second} (again), of our parents, we would also have the same sin and the same problem that we have in this life. But the Bible never teaches the reincarnation. But it teaches regeneration. It teaches recreation. It teaches God's making ~~him~~ the man that ~~he is~~ IS, and always WILL BE in this life and in Eternity. I will be Bill Bennett in Eternity. I'm not coming back here as a cow or an animal, as a fly.

I do not have that chance. This will NEVER come. That is not taught in Scrip. But this is implied in Nicodemus' statement. He says 'how can a man be born when he is old'. This implies that Nicodemus was old. You know what 'old' was back in those days? 55. The ancients said 'when you're 55, you're old'. That's not true today. And it implies that Nicodemus was this age but the thrilling thing is that it could happen to him because Jesus said to Nicodemus 'it can happen to you'.

And, though, he was considered an old man, it could happen to him. Now it

~~doesn't~~ doesn't happen to a lot of old men. I'm sorry to say. If we continue to put this off, the older we get, the more hard hearted. It CAN happen to anybody. I've seen it happen to 80 yr. old men and I've seen it happen to 90-yr. old men. It CAN. It can.

But the problem is that man brings himself to a state where he can't respond to this and his heart becomes as hard as concrete. But Nicodemus says 'how in the world can I enter a second time into my mothers body and be born again? A physical birth?'

V. 5(read) Jesus answers him. 'Born of (it's 'out of' in the Greek) out of water and out of the spirit...' It's the little preposition 'ex' which means 'out of'. Unless ANYONE be born OUT OF the water and OUT OF the spirit (the Holy Spirit) he cannot enter (he cannot become a member of God's) Kingdom.'

Now the Kingdom of God in John's Gospel is roughly the same as salvation in Matthew, Mark and Luke. It's the same thing as Eternal Life. But you see, Jesus is talking to a man who believes he's IN the Kingdom because he is a Son of Abraham and so, He couches it in the language that the man can understand.

Which, of course, is the only way to preach; the only way to teach is to deal in catagories of thought that your audience can comprehend. And so Jesus is simply ~~xpicking up~~ picking up the conversation they had there with each other on the Kingdom of God and He says 'I want to say to you 'unless ANYBODY be born OUT OF water (# 1) and OUT OF the HS, it is impossible in the very nature of things for him to ever enter the Kingdom of God'.

Now what does this 'water' mean? Well, now you look at this and without comparing with other Scrip. you'd say 'oh, that's baptism'. And so that means that

if you're going to be born again, that you have got to be baptized in water and do you realize that this has been taught for 1500 yrs.? There are more people who say they are Xtns today who have been taught this than any other group.

~~Theyxxx~~ There are literally millions of people who've been taught that you've GOT to be baptized in water in order to be a child of God; in order to go to Heaven. It CANNOT mean that at all. If it means that, we've got an impossible Bible. Because the Bible, in it's overwhelming witness, tells us that salvation is not of man; it's not of water; it's not of ordinances; it's ENTIRELY a GIFT of God. The Free Grace of God!

He's NOT talking about waters of baptism. You do not get in the Kingdom by ~~that~~. You say, well, isn't it important I be baptized? Yes, but that's just to confess the fact that you have been Born Again in your heart and to openly confess it in water. But that's DOES NOT bring it to pass. No miracle in any type of baptism.

You say 'well, now what does this water mean?' Well I have reviewed this thing in it's total context and I have seen this thing in a life that most commentators would disagree with. Many commentators say that it's referring to repentance and the old commentators says 'water is a symbol of the Word and so ~~when~~ what He's saying 'you've got to be born of the Word and you've got to be born of the Spirit'. Well, if you take it in it's context, you will come out with Jesus talking to Nicodemus about his problem in this thing of water.

What is Nicodemus's problem? When I was born of my mother, of the blood of Abraham, that made me a member of the Kingdom; that MADE me a Son of God. And this water, which was pretty common, and, of course, doctors and ~~xxxxxx~~

mothers understand this, refers to the sac of water of physical birth. I'm convinced of this, as I've studied Matthew's Gospel and understood the teaching of the Jews.

Jesus is saying to Nicodemus 'you must have a physical birth before you can be born again'. Only a human being, who's been born (again, can have a New Birth. ~~The child~~ And so, this water - the child being contained in a sac of water in the mothers ~~own~~ body - and that water being burst at the time of the deliverance of the child - this would signify the physical birth. The birth of the flesh. And Jesus is saying to Nicodemus 'yes, you must be born, like you've been talking about - right. Because only a human being, who's been 'born' can be 'born again'. But you must be born, after you're born physically of the HS.'

Now, it's very significant that after Jesus mentions Water once, He never mentions it again. He drops it. He drops it in V.6; He drops it in V.8 and He talks ONLY about the birth of the spirit. Why? Because He's made His point. The emphasis is on the birth of the HS. He does not need to pick up the water anymore.

And so, He says 'now, Nicodemus, you've had a birth and this makes you a candidate for the New Birth, but you're one birth didn't get you into the Kingdom. You've got to have a second birth and that's got to be of the HS if you're gonna enter the Kingdom of God.

V.6(read) He spells it out. He says 'born of the flesh is flesh' (that's the water birth). That's the physical birth. When we are born of our mother, we are flesh and nothing but flesh. That's true of every one of us. Even though our Mama was a Xtn, we are flesh and we're not spirit. And here's the reason

that the best man in the world has to be born again is because he was born in flesh with a tendency to sin, separated from God, with evil nature, his spirit dead and it's got to be quickened by the HS in order for him to be made alive.

But He goes on to say 'that born of the spirit is spirit'. You've got to be born out of the HS, in order to become spirit. Now you can take a man; you can baptize him in water, you can dress him up in a suit of clothes and you can put him in a church and he will look as pious and as religious as any preacher. But if that man has not been born again, follow that man outside of the church and that man will do only the works of the flesh.

A pig
You CANNOT do anything but the flesh, if you've had only a birth of the flesh. Just like a pig: you can take a pig, scrub him, wash him real good, put a ribbon around his neck, spray with Channel #5, set him up in your living room and that's some hog to look at, let me tell you. He even smells good. But you open the door of your home and that pig will rush out of your house and he'll jump in the first mud puddle. Why? He's still a pig.

He's still a pig. Man has got to have more than a baptism and man has got to be more than a church member. He has got to have more than an outward religious facade. Something has got to take place in the deepest part of our humanity and that cannot be done by education. It cannot be done by indoctrination. It cannot be done by baptism. It cannot be done by man trying to be good or trying to be religious. It is a miracle of God and it is the greatest miracle of the ages. There's nothing like it!!!

1 When God created man, out of the dust of the earth, that was a miracle of creation. *2* When He created the second Adam, JC, in the womb of the virgin, Mary, that was a miracle. *3* But the greatest miracle that God has EVER performed and

which He's doing all the time, is when He takes just a guy like me - just a guy as ordinary as I am - and as failing and as faltering as Bill Bennet - and gives him a new life and turns his life completely around until his purpose is entirely different to what it was, his love, his outlook, his whole being is changed - that is the supreme miracle of the ages.

The New Birth is the greatest miracle that God ever performed and it is a miracle of God! It is not a human attainment. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ You could never earn it; you're never worthy of it; you can't get it through any book or ANYTHING - it's something that God has to bring into the heart, through the sovereign work of the HS.

Just as there could not have been the birth of Jesus of the virgin, apart from the miraculous, supernatural work of the HS, there is not possibility of a New Birth in ANYBODY'S life, apart from the miracle of the HS and God DOES take the Word and that's what we're studying this morning. The Word is spoken and the HS takes that Word and performs a miracle in a man's life and that's the miracle of a new life, through a New Birth.

So Jesus says in V. 7 (read) don't be so surprised. Why shouldn't Nicodemus be surprised? Because if ~~He had~~ he'd a read his O.T., he would have known that man needed a New Birth. If he had analized his own heart, like he ought to, he would have known that man needed a new birth. There's not an honest man who ever lived, who has ever come face to face with himself, who does not realize that there's something radically wrong in his life.

And that something is that he needs God. If a man will be honest, he knows and when you hear the message of the New Birth, you see this is what I've needed all my life. It's never happened to me. Man, himself, KNOWS this. He

KNOWS this, if he'll be honest with himself. And sometimes, we can cover up with religion; we can cover up with being a goody; we can cover up by pretending; we can cover up but deep down, we KNOW, we KNOW that we need God. We KNOW it! We know it.

So Jesus says 'don't be surprised when I tell you 'ye must' (not really). In the English tongue, it says 'ye' and it looks like He's still talking to Nicodemus. That 'ye' is a plural. 'You all'. You think Jesus was a Southerner? At least, He said 'you all'. Why does He say 'you all'? Nicodemus came and said 'we'. He's sending a message back to the ^{whole} ~~old~~ religious establishment. He says 'ever last one of you need to be born again'. See?

That's what He's saying. And that's exactly what Jesus would say today, if He went to Washington, D.C., or anywhere in our world today, He'd say 'you all-
practically every one of you need to be born again'. The whole religious establishment was in darkness. Because they believed that through their own goodness and through their own physical birth, following Abraham, that they were already in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus says 'every one of you need to be born again. Take the message back, Nocodemus, to the Sanhedrin, tell the Jewish nation, preach this Gospel 'you ALL need to be born again'. And there's no message that's needed today like this. This would absolutely revolutionize the average church in America. There are ~~hundreds~~ hundreds of churches in America today, if the pastor were to get up in the pulpit and REALLY preach that people needed to be born again, it would be on NBC-CNS news. It would create a revolution in the great cities and the churches of this land.

Because in most churches, they have never heard it! They believe, that throug

their own goodness and religion, that they are all right. You talk about a radical message.... somebody asked Pres. Carter up in New England if he should preach repentance, if he should call the nation to repentance? He said, well, no, he didn't feel he should do that. He was political leader and not spiritual leader.

But this is what the nation needs today. If there was somebody in this land on a national level, that could call this nation to the new birth and repentance. That'd be the greatest service that could ever be rendered, in the world. So He tells Nicodemus 'go back and tell the whole country'. He wants to get through to Nicodemus and so He illustrates it.

Having stated this great truth, he illustrates it in V. 8(read) with a very common illustration. He illustrates it with the wind. The word 'wind' and 'Holy Spirit' are the same word, exactly. It's the word 'pneuma' - this word in the Bible means 'wind' or 'breath' or 'spirit'. And Jesus compares - you say 'well, why don't you translate that first word there as 'spirit'? Well, because He's comparing the Spirit to the Wind and we're certainly safe in translating it this way.

He says 'the wind blows where it wants to blow, as it pleases'. 'Sound thereof' (that is, the wind) but you can't tell where it's coming from and you can't tell where it's going. You see that little phrase 'so is everyone that is born of the Spirit of God'? That's what we call a comparative particle in Greek. And here's what it says: 'this is exactly the way it is with the HS'.

That's a comparative particle. He's comparing the mysterious work of the wind in nature, to the mysterious work of the HS in the human life. Now the wind is very mysterious. You don't know where it comes from. No one knows.

You don't know where it's going. You can't predict it's movement. It's very ^e ~~irr~~ ⁴ ~~adic~~, very unpredictable, but you KNOW that the wind is blowing. You know this. You KNOW the wind is real because you can hear it; you can feel it and you know it's reality.

SM And I've always imagined that Jesus and Nicodemus were sitting out, maybe on one of those flat roofs in the Middle East, and that the wind began to blow, in a tree nearby. And began to rustle the leaves in the tree and Jesus said to Nicodemus ^① 'you see those leaves moving over there?' And Nicodemus said 'yes'. And Jesus said ^② 'what makes those branches move?' Nicodemus said 'why of course, the wind'.

Jesus said 'I have another question for you. Where did that wind come from, Nocidemus?' Nicodemus said 'why, I don't know. I've never thought of that'. 'Well, where's that wind going?' Nicodemus said 'I have no idea'. And Jesus said 'this is exactly the way it is with the New Birth'. 'Nicodemus, it's a mystery. You just don't understand it. But you can experience it until you know it's ^{as} ~~the~~ real as the wind hitting your body.'

And you know that I could not, in the limitation I have this morning is, in trying to explain the mystery - I can't. But I could not deny it in my own life. It's a reality and when it happens, in the life of an individual, the individual knows it's happened.

^{Bev Shay} One man was making light of his brother who believed in the miracle and he said 'well, I don't know whether Jesus turned the water into wine in Palestine or not, but one thing I know, in my house He turned beer into furniture.' Somebody asked Bev Shay 'what do you know about God?' And Bev Shay said 'don't know much about God. Don't claim to know much.' If you ask me 'Bill, what do

you know about God?' I'd say 'very little'.

'You a preacher and know very little about God?' 'Yes'. But what Bev Shay said, I would say 'I don't know MUCH about God but I know He changed my life'. 'I KNOW He gave me a new life through a New Birth'. JC has come - not just to reform us - not to make us outwardly respectable - not to just give us a high moral - He does ALL this, but why He came and why He had to come , was that we might be Born Anew, with the very Life of God, in us.

So that we can come under His Lordship; so that we can respond to His love and His Grace. And this is what it means to be Born Again. The wind - the wind

I'll come back to this in just a moment. Having said this, Jesus moves on to the cross. Because you see, the New Birth is not a human attainment. Do you realize that John 3: 16 is in the contextual setting of the New Birth? We quote it all the time but that's right at the center of Jesus' message to Nicodemus. The message of the cross. No New Birth unless Jesus died for us. No New Birth unless He rose again. No New Birth unless He's ascended into Heaven and sent the HS - this is His work. Not our work.

Now Jesus goes on to lecture Nicodemus just a little bit, in V. 9 (read). you see, here's a man who's mystified. He doesn't understand it. And Jesus says

V.10(read) not really 'a master' -in the original tongue, 'are you whole ^{ho de-}de-gostolos'? ^{de-}Are you THE teacher of Israel? He's ~~pin~~ pointing him out among all the teachers. Are you THE teacher - not just any old teacher - but are you THE teacher of Israel? No, the original says 'are you THE teacher of the (you've got the definite article both before 'teacher' and 'Israel'). Are

you THE teacher of THE Israel? You, of all people, don't you KNOW that you have to be born again?

Now it would be tragic for any person not to know this. But ~~kk~~ think how tragic it would be for ME not to know this. And me be teaching you. Think how tragic it would be for a man with a large congregation or over a whole group of churches, that had the authority to teach them and he has the Word of God and they're looking to him and yet, he does not know ~~kkkk~~ this.

5m The tragedy is indescribable. YOU, of all people, Nicodemus, YOU who are THE teacher of THE Israel, of THE chosen people of God - you don't KNOW ~~what~~ it means to be Born Again? And yet, this happens in our world today. I talked to the President of a theological seminary some time ago - he said 'do you realize that I had earned my PHD from the biggest seminary in America and was not born again?' He said 'I was a lost man and I was invited to a church where the people believed in the New Birth and I ~~didn't~~ didn't even believe in the resurrection of Jesus and they invited me on Easter, to preach'.

'And I got under conviction'. 'And realized I didn't have a thing in this world but just an intellect.' He said 'then later I was filled with the HS'; and now he's a President of a seminary. If the blind lead the blind, shall they not ALL fall into the ditch? ARE you, of all people, The teacher of The Israel and you don't know this?

Are you the teacher of a S.S. class and not know this? Are you a deacon and not know this? Do you sing in the choir and not know this? Do you claim to be a Xtn and not know this? Here's the supreme teaching of all the Word of God. Now He moves on into a marvelous section on the cross. And I don't want to start it today. I just want to close with this illustration.

Through the centuries, men have tried to explain the New Birth. John Wesley preached 3000 sermons on the New Birth and someone asked him why he preached so much on the New Birth, he says 'very simple; ye must be born again'. When I was studying theology in Duke University, my best friend preached in the chapel to a congregation of preachers and he preached on the New Birth. His subject was 'Ye Must Be Born Again'.

After he preached, the Dean of the School was incensed and called him in to his office and said 'why on earth would you preach on the New Birth to a congregation entirely of ministers?' And he told the Dean 'very simple, Dean. It's because ye MUST be born again.' And do you realize that three preachers came forth on the invitation. I saw that with my own eyes.

Do you realize that the Presbyterians, the Methodists, the Christians, the Baptists, the Assembly of God, Nazarenes, Holiness - all the people ~~hw~~ who made this nation - this was their message at one time? Every one of them, without exception. This was the message that builded America. In the 19th century, this was preached on the frontier and up until 1930 and 40, this was preached in the camp meetings through out this land - every denominatin that considered itself ANYTHING, was preaching 'ye must be born again'.

And yet, there's mystery. We don't understand it. So, the ~~old~~ preacher went to a sea captain, realizing that Jesus compared the work of the spirit to that of the wind and he said 'I'd like to understand more about the new birth' and you work with the wind all the time. Could you explain to me the wind?' And the seaman said 'you know, I've been on the sea for 13 yrs. I don't understand much about the wind. I understand very little about it. But there's one thing I've learned in these 13 yrs. I have learned how to set my sails and I leave the wind to God'. That's all that we can do today. You can never explain it.

But you can set your sails. How do you do that? By acknowledging your need. Opening your heart to Jesus. If it hadn't happened in your life, it can happen today. And this is what you've been looking for all your life.

I feel impressed this morning to say to you that if you need further discussion or instruction on this matter, I would like to talk to you and you know where I am and you can call me. If you need, this morning, to come out and take a public stand for Jesus, we don't give an invitation in this service, stay for the next service and when I give the invitation, come.

Hundreds of you have been born again. I hope all of you have. But if there's one person who hasn't, don't risk your soul. Unless anyone is born physically, of his mother, and then born spiritually, of the HS, he cannot -- but that can be made positive. Anyone who IS born of the Spirit, no matter who he is, is in the Kingdom NOW.

And knows God. Have you set your sail? To the Wind of God's Spirit?

I want us to stand at this time and pray.