

January 4, 2026



Week 18 – NICODEMUS’S VISIT (John 3:1-21, pp. 139-145)

In this week’s reading, a Pharisee named Nicodemus comes to visit Jesus. The Pharisees were one of several different religion factions among the Jews at the time of Jesus.

What do we know about...

the Pharisees _____

the Scribes _____

the Sadducees? _____

According to CFM, p 140, who were some notable Pharisees? _____

How did the Scribes and Pharisees understand the Old Testament? _____

What did they miss about the Old Testament? _____

When did Nicodemus visit Jesus and why is that significant? _____

What does Nicodemus confess about Jesus? _____

After Nicodemus confesses his own “faith” in Jesus, Jesus explains that one must be “born again” to truly understand who Jesus is and what He does. In the modern church, the phrase, “born again,” has been understood in various ways. The historic Christian interpretation is that it refers to Holy Baptism.

What key details in this passage help us understand what it means to be “born again?” _____

How does being “born again” affect a person? _____

Why does Jesus compare the work of the Holy Spirit with the blowing of the wind? _____

What does this passage teach us about our work and God’s work in understanding God’s Word and receiving His gifts? _____

After speaking about Baptism, Jesus describes the purpose for which He was sent into the world. **What verses describe that purpose?** _____

What Old Testament imagery does Jesus use to describe His ministry? _____

How does Jesus continue to use the imagery of light and darkness from John 1? _____

For Next Time:

Week 19 – ??? (???, pp. ???)