

Lesson 3/12/17  
**“And the Answer is, Water, Words and Spirit!  
What Was the Question?”**

**Scripture Reading**

John 3:1-17    Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Sanhedrin (the Jewish ruling council). 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.”

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

“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!”

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ 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.”

“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? 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. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven — the Chosen One. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Chosen One must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in the Chosen One may have eternal life.”

“Yes, God so loved the world as to give the Only Begotten One, that whosoever believes shall not perish but have eternal life. God sent the Only Begotten into the world not to condemn the world, but that through the Only Begotten the world might be saved.

**Second Reading -adapted from Meister Eckart**

God gives birth to the Chosen One as you, as me, as each one of us. As many beings – as many gods in God. In my soul, God not only gives birth to me as a child of God, God gives birth to me as God, and God as me.

I find in this divine birth that God and I are the same: I am what I was and what I shall always remain, now and forever. I am transported above the highest angels; I neither decrease or increase, for in this birth I have become the motionless cause of all that moves. I have won back what has always been mine. Here, in my own soul, the greatest of all miracles has taken place – God has returned to God!