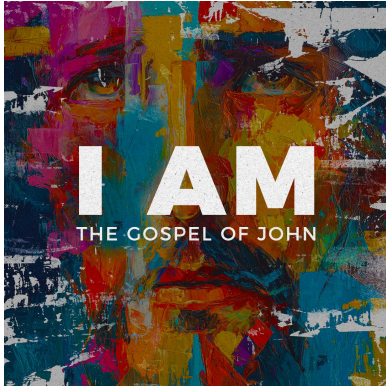


Title: To Begin Again

Series: I Am

Speaker: Kevin Sneed

Date: June 7, 2026



Introduction

Jesus invites Nicodemus, a religious and moralistic member of the ruling council, to consider the foundation upon which He is building his life. He reminds him that in order to enter the kingdom of God, he needs to be born again. True transformation is about receiving a new life from God, building our lives upon Him, and yielding to the movement of the Holy Spirit. We are reminded that the life of the kingdom of God can only be received through the surrender of the life we have built.

Key Texts: John 3:1-21, Matthew 21:31-32, Isaiah 44, Ezekiel 36:25-27

Icebreaker

Is there something that you've had to re-learn or that you've needed to re-visit or approach differently? What was it, and how was that process for you?

Discussion Questions

1. **Read John 3:1-21 aloud** as a group. Before diving into discussion questions, take a few moments to make some observations about what you notice in the text. What do you notice about God? What do you notice about humanity?
2. What details do we learn about Nicodemus in this passage? Why do you think John wants to draw out these particular details, and how does this connect with Jesus' words about being "born again?"
3. Read **Matthew 21:31-32**. Jesus is highlighting to the religious leaders that the "unlikely," those whose lives are in shambles, are having an easier time accepting and embracing Jesus as Savior. Why do you think this might be?

4. We were reminded this week that we need to lay our lives down (surrender) in order to take up the resurrected life. Jesus invites us to take up His way of life and to reorient our loves and longings around Him. Why do you think we try to hold so tightly to our own way and to the lives that we have built for ourselves (accomplishments, wealth, influence, relationships, etc.)? How have you experienced this resistance in your own life?

5. Read **John 3:16-21**. This passage draws us back to Numbers 21, where Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, and all who looked at the snake were healed. In this passage, Nicodemus wanted to come to Jesus as a teacher, but not a Savior. Jesus reminds us that we need to be healed and need a new beginning from a different source. How does this deepen your understanding of a familiar verse (John 3:16)? Where might you be staying “comfortable” in the darkness – and how might Jesus be inviting you to look to Him and trust Him as your Savior?

6. Kevin reminded us that we cannot coerce our own soul (we cannot force transformation) - we can only make ourselves available to the movement of the Holy Spirit. He used the analogy of setting the sails and yielding to the wind of the Holy Spirit. What do you think it would look like for you, personally, to “set the sails?” How can this group be praying for you in that?

Key Takeaways

- To be born again means that God offers us a new beginning. To be born from above means that God gives us a new source from which we live (the Holy Spirit)
- Jesus invites us to believe in His name - to put our faith in Him, to give Him our allegiance, and to rearrange our lives around the reality of the gospel.
- We all build our lives on something, assuming it'll bring about the good life (accomplishments, wealth, influence, relationships, etc.). The life of the kingdom of God can only be received through the surrender of the life you have built.

Silence and Solitude

This week, take some time each day to invite the Holy Spirit to transform you from the inside out. Reflect on and respond in prayer to the promise in Ezekiel 36:25-27: *“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”* Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal where He may be inviting you to surrender and yield to His movement in your life.