

Three Phases of the New Birth

Chapter 11 Audio Lesson: New Testament #29



Objective: To understand Jesus' conflict with the religious leaders and to recognize Him as the Light of the world, the good Shepherd, and the Resurrection and the Life.



"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' . . . 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'

—John 8:12, 31-32

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

—John 10:9-10

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

—John 11:25-26

After Jesus showed mercy to a woman caught in adultery, He spoke very harshly to the religious leaders, calling them "children of the devil." Some of these leaders believed in Jesus, and He assured them that the truth would make them free. After giving sight to a blind man, Jesus preached that He was the Light of the world. Many of the religious leaders realized that He was accusing them of rejecting Him, the Light, so they could remain in their sin. He explained that He gives sight to those who know they are blind.

Jesus compared Himself to a good shepherd and told His followers that His sheep recognize His voice. Jesus assured them that as the only gate to the sheep pen, the Good Shepherd would protect them from harm.

One of Jesus' most dramatic miracles occurred when He allowed three people to experience life's two most unsolvable problems — sickness and death. He wanted His friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus—and all who read their story—to learn that He is the victory over death and the key to eternal life. Those who believe in Jesus and live in union with Him will never truly die.

1. True or false? Jesus never denied that the woman caught in adultery had actually sinned, but He treated her with compassion anyway.
2. True or false? God never forgets that we are sinners, but He chooses to forget our sins.



3. True or false? Jesus taught that all human beings have come down from heaven and will return to heaven.

4. True or false? Even though Jesus always spoke the truth, He never spoke harshly to anyone.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Number the following phases of the new birth in their proper order:

- Experience
- Follow
- Believe

6. What did Jesus mean when He said, “Before Abraham was born, I am”?

- a. That He was an old soul who had lived many lifetimes
- b. That He was God and therefore eternal
- c. That He knew the Old Testament as well as if He had lived in that time
- d. That time is only an illusion and does not apply to those who are enlightened

7. According to Jesus, why was the blind man born with his blindness?

- a. He deserved blindness because of his sinful nature.
- b. His parents had sinned, and he was cursed with the consequences.
- c. He had blinded someone in a previous life, and this was his punishment.
- d. God wanted to display His work through this man’s life.

8. What did Jesus mean when He said, “I am the Light of the World”? (*choose all that apply*)

- a. He has no darkness or sin in Him; He is God.
- b. He gives spiritual sight to those who are spiritually blind.
- c. He removes the darkness of sin.
- d. His life and light illuminate one’s sinfulness.

9. What does it mean for us that Jesus is the gate to the sheepfold? (*choose all that apply*)

- a. His rules confine us to a narrow place in life with no freedom.
- b. He is the only way into the Kingdom of God.
- c. He wants to keep us separate from the world so it cannot influence us and we cannot influence others.
- d. He protects us from predators.
- e. He keeps undesirable people from entering His kingdom.

10. Why did Jesus stay where He was when He heard that His friend Lazarus was sick?

- a. He did not realize that Lazarus' illness was serious.
- b. He did not care if Lazarus died because death is only an illusion.
- c. He wanted to demonstrate His victory over disease and death.
- d. He wanted to try to heal Lazarus from a distance but could not.

11. How should we respond to Jesus when we are going through a difficult time in life?

- a. Stay close in our relationship with Him and continue to trust Him.
- b. Get angry that He has allowed us to suffer.
- c. Pretend that we are happy anyway, even when we do not feel like it.
- d. Realize that His ways are so mysterious that we will never really be able to relate to Him.

12. What did Jesus mean when He said, "Whoever believes in me will never die"?

- a. His true followers would not experience physical death like others.
- b. His disciples would be reincarnated with good and high positions.
- c. All those who believe and put their faith in Him would never spiritually die.
- d. No one knows—He said that only to get more followers.



Are you experiencing any difficulties in your life right now? If so, how does Jesus want you to respond to Him in the midst of those difficulties? In what ways might He be working to draw you closer to Him through your circumstances?

Have you ever placed your faith in the Light of the World, in the One Who is the resurrection and the life, in Jesus? If you have, then how should that reality impact the way you live? If you have not, then place your faith in Jesus Christ today.



Thank Jesus that He is the solver of life's most unsolvable problems. Ask Him to deal with your problems and to help you trust Him completely. Ask Him to draw you closer to Him in every situation you face in your life.



Going Deeper

1. How can you compare and apply John 7: 37-39 with what Jesus told the woman at the well about how the one drink of living water becomes a spring (in the one who drinks it), from which others will come and drink? _____

2. Based upon John 8: 30-36, what are three phases of the new birth, according to Jesus? _____

3. How can you explain and apply the clear statement of Jesus in John 9: 41 that, if you were blind or had no spiritual light at all, you would have no sin? _____

4. How can you compare and apply John 10: 9 with John 14: 6? _____

5. As reported in the tenth and eleventh chapters of John, why did Jesus stay where He was, making three people that He loved experience life's most unsolvable problems of sickness and death? _____

6. Describe and apply the two conditions given by Jesus in John 11: 26, upon which we base the conviction that even when we die we will live? (Whoever lives in Me and believes in Me.)

7. As recorded in John 12: 23-28 Jesus explained that a seed does not bear fruit until it dies as a seed. He says that He came into the world for this hour and then prays, “*Father glorify Yourself!*” I have heard this prayer paraphrased, “Father, glorify yourself and send me the bill. Anything Father, just glorify Yourself!” Have you ever prayed that prayer, or are you now willing to? _____
