

## OLD WAY/NEW WAY

Sunday February 14, 2021

### 400 vs. 11

Tell me about a time that you have been hesitant to adopt a new route, technology, or way of doing things:

Why is it so difficult to change habits or traditions?

### Pleasing God 101 (John 3:1)

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and part of the Great Sanhedrin. Knowing this, what can you tell me about Nicodemus' method of faith?

Do you see "faith" as something fixed, unchanging, black and white or do you see it as being more nuanced, fluid, situational? Why?

### Looking for Compromise (John 3:2)

Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night?

Why were the religious leaders having such a hard time with Jesus?

### A Whole New Way (John 3:3)

*Birth is a radical experience. When we're born, we leave the only reality we have ever known. We emerge into a world completely outside of our capacity to understand. We are born into a reality for which we have absolutely no point of reference. We enter a world in which we are completely dependent and within which we must now learn to grow and mature.*

How is being "born again" spiritually similar to physical birth?

What type of transformation was Jesus calling Nicodemus to?

Why was this a "difficult pill" for Nicodemus to swallow?

What type of transformation does being "born again" mean for you?

### Jesus Knows the Way (John 3:4-8)

Why does Jesus use a "baptism analogy" to explain what He meant?

What does it mean to be "born of the Spirit"? What is it like?

What does this mean for human works or effort?

### Take It Home:

1. Are there any traditions or habits in your life with respect to your faith that may need to be examined/questioned/discarded?
2. In what ways is your faith perhaps too rigid, predictable, safe?
3. Why is it uncomfortable to give up the predictable trappings of "religion" for the "wind of the Spirit"?
4. Do you think a relational dynamic with Jesus could make all aspects of your life better? How could it make life more difficult?
5. What are some new habits you may need to embrace in order to make room for the "wind of the Spirit"?