

Encountering Jesus
Hard Truth for a Good Man

Dr. Joe Scruggs, Senior Pastor
July 24, 2011

The most obvious underlying premise ever –
_____.

The Encounter John 3:1-21 (page 1649)

John 3:1-3

- Respectful but _____
- Shocking _____

John 3:4-9

- Nicodemus asked the right question.
- A whole new paradigm: You _____
the Kingdom of God _____ you have been born
again and you _____ be born again on your
own power.
- Ezekiel 36:24-27

John 3:11-15

- Let me tell you how I know
- Daniel 7:13-15 The Son of Man
- Numbers 21:8 A Startling Metaphor

John 3:16-17 Incredible Love

- _____
- _____
- _____

John 3:18-21 Hard Choices

What can we learn about ourselves?

- We can't really live spiritually unless we're
_____.
- We need _____.
- The process is _____, not
reformation.
- Accept the reality that there is _____.
- Be aware of our _____.

What can we learn about Jesus?

- He is respectful and _____.
- _____ Him is not enough.
- He presents challenges that demand _____.

What can we learn about our interactions with
people?

- We need to be aware that all interactions might have
_____ implications.

Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday’s message helps us apply God’s Word to our individual lives. Hopefully these questions and thoughts will be helpful as you apply the issues discussed today.

- Reread John 3:1-21 and simply see what thoughts strike you.
- What do you think was the most important thing Jesus said as He talked with Nicodemus? Why did you choose this?
- Read II Corinthians 5:17. Is the message of this passage consistent with what Jesus told Nicodemus? If so, what do you think hinders us from becoming “new creations”? What do you think Jesus would say hinders us?
- How would our current culture respond to someone like Jesus who simply said, “I tell you the truth” and then went on to describe a radically new “system” for knowing God?
- Do you have someone like Nicodemus in your life (someone who is well-meaning but misguided)? What part of this passage would be easier for them to hear? What do you think they most need to hear?
- Last week, Mike talked about Jesus’ interaction with someone “outside” of the faith family (a lady who was caught in adultery – John 8:1-11). Nicodemus was right at the heart of the faith family of his culture. How are these interactions similar? How are they different?
- Why do you think God had you here today? What did you need to hear? What do you think God wants you to do in response to today’s service?

