

#2812

Greater New York Crusade
Flushing Meadows, Corona Park
Friday, June 24, 2005 7:30 pm

STARTING LIFE OVER AGAIN

ILL: Anti-climax

ILL: "Hit me again, I can still hear him"

TEXT: John 3

2nd. First Sermon

— What a privilege to be here at

Flushing Meadows Corona Park

— We had a pavilion here at the 1964

● World's Fair

— friendship with Robert Moses

● ILL: This is such a historic site

-- Here in the "New York City Building" in
Flushing Meadows is where the United
Nations met for the first few years

● -- and it was here in that building that the
U.N. General Assembly voted in
November 1947, and the State of Israel
was created.

- There are more Jewish people living in New York City than in any other city in the world
- and when I think of them, I remember
- that Jesus was a Jew
- all of His apostles and first disciples were Jewish
- With just a few exceptions, the writers of the Old and New Testaments were Jewish

12.7 Bm Cofm

- — Jesus said it is possible to live a new life
- and start over again with all mistakes,
failures, and sins behind you
- — That's why He said: "You must be born
again."
- We are living in a revolutionary and
changing world.

- -- Man's moral ability is lagging behind his technological ability.
- -- Could mean disaster and catastrophe for
- the human race.
- -- The greatest need in the world is a transformation of human nature.
-

● ILL: Yankees on Tuesday night got 13 runs
in the 8th Inning against Tampa!

ILL: Goose Goslin

- -- 7th game of the World Series
- New York and Washington
- score tied
- 9th inning

-- Goose Goslin came to bat

-- he hit a home run

-- the crowd went wild.

-- When he came into home plate the
umpire yelled "Out."

-- The crowd was stunned.

● -- And the umpire explained: "He didn't
touch first base."

● -- New Birth

ILL: Ten-year-old boy writing on "birth"

-- "stork" brought him.

— Nicodemus must have been amazed.

-- Nicodemus was a ruler

-- He was rich.

— He was a Pharisee

● ILL: The need of a spiritual awakening and revival today if our country is to be saved.

— We are being destroyed from within.

✓ — Nicodemus fasted two days a week.

— Spent two hours daily at the Temple in prayer.

- - Tithed all his income.

- Was a professor of theology.

- But he was not satisfied.

- - There was a void in his life.

- There was an emptiness in his heart.

- Many churches would have been glad to
● have Nicodemus

— but Jesus said: "It isn't enough,

Nicodemus. You must be born again."

1. WHY DID JESUS SAY THIS?

— Because He knew what was in man.

— What causes lying; cheating; hate;
prejudice?

- — "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which
- defile a man" (Matthew 15:19-20).

1. BREAKING GOD's LAW

(Ten Commandments)

● -- "Sin is the transgression of the law"

(1 John 3:4).

● (2) MISSING THE MARK:

● -- "All unrighteousness is sin"

(1 John 5:17).

● — "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6).

● ILL: Sheep and goats at home

— sheep always trying to get out

- — we are dead toward God.

- "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all

- have sinned" (Romans 5:12).

- A radical change is needed by every one

- to find complete fulfillment in this life

- to be acceptable with God.

2. WHAT IS THE NEW BIRTH?

- Nicodemus raised this question: "How
can a man be born when he is old?"

(John 3:4).

- He wanted to understand it

ILL: Understanding color television

● ILL: Understanding computer and Internet

ILL: There are so many new technologies
today which I don't understand!

● ILL: How to go about proving a mother's
love in a laboratory.

●

● WHEN JESUS SAID “YOU MUST BE
BORN AGAIN” HE DID NOT MEAN:

1. Inheritance

● — “Which were born, not of blood, nor of
the will of the flesh, nor of the will of
man, but of God” (John 1:13).

● ILL: Born in a garage

● 2. Baptism, or confirmation

- Some of you might have been saved at confirmation and some might not have been

● 3. By works

- “Not by works...which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost” (Titus 3:5).

● 5. Reformation

— “All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” in the sight of God (Isaiah 64:6).

● ILL: Pig and the sheep

6. Imitation

ILL: Couple came to New York to see

● “Phantom of the Opera”

- -- But it was sold out

- -- they couldn't get tickets.

- -- So as people came out after the show

- -- this couple picked up some of the
discarded programs and ticket stubs.

● -- They could sing some of the songs:

-- "All I ask of You"

-- "Music of the Night"

● -- But they never actually got in to see the
show!

TO BE BORN AGAIN MEANS:

- The Cross and Resurrection

- need to repent

- faith

- God says: "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you" (Ezekiel 36:26).

- The NEW BIRTH brings about a change

3. HOW IS IT ACCOMPLISHED?

- The new birth is a mystery.

- "The wind bloweth where it listeth"

(John 3:8).

ILL: Jones Beach -- wind

ILL: Analogy to natural birth.

1. Reception of the Word of God:

- "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter 1:23).

— "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

— "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching [or declaration, or proclamation] to save them that believe" (1 Corinthians 1:21).

2. It is the work of the Holy Spirit:

- He convicts

- "And when he is come, he will reprove

the world of sin, and of righteousness,

and of judgment" (John 16:8).

— Then He indwells

— "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

(1 Corinthians 3:16).

ILL: Since I have been in New York there have been two helicopter crashes here.

● ILL: It reminded me of a man who was on a
small plane going from Nassau to
Miami

-- it crashed in the ocean

● -- he survived the crash

-- but had blood on his forehead which
attracted sharks

● -- he spent hours kicking the sharks away.

● -- After he had been in the water more than
ten hours, he saw an aircraft
-- and waved his orange life vest

● -- the pilot spotted him and dropped a
smoke canister
-- and radioed a coast guard cutter that was
12 minutes away

-- He said: "Hurry! There's a guy down here surrounded by sharks."

-- The coast guard cutter came

-- and they helped him to scramble up the rope ladder.

● - Nothing less than OUTSIDE

INTERVENTION could have rescued
him from certain death.

● - He didn't need a better technique

- he didn't need encouragement

- he needed to be saved.

— And that is your position tonight.

BG/sw
6/23/05