



John 3:1-17 New Revised Standard Version

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.



“Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not.” C.S. Lewis

“What’s love got to do with it?” It is more than a question posed in a popular 1980s hit recorded by artist Tina Turner. In fact, it is at the heart of why we press through this Lenten season in anticipation for Easter Sunday. We remember our sin nature and that which separates us from God, while realizing God is not finished with us. Even though we give up on or write others off when they do us wrong, God surprisingly treats us different. Instead of getting *back* at us, God does what is necessary to get *to* us. Why on earth would God do such a thing? Because...God loves us. This love is far from ordinary or limited by our human understanding. It transcends our thinking, is better than what we deserve, but exactly what we need.

- 1. It has the capability both to cleanse and empower us.**
- 2. It doesn’t have to make sense in order to be effective.**
- 3. Its scope is not limited as with our human expressions.**

Prayer Pebble: Lord, this Lenten season may remind me of my humanity and my fallen nature, but, through your love, you have provided the means for my forgiveness. Thank you for this love which is so amazing because it applies not only to me, but also the whole world. Amen.