Intro: After reading in the first two chapters how the disciples believed _________ to be the _________ and began to follow after Him, it seems quite odd to many when they read at the close of chapter two that there were people in Jerusalem who upon witnessing His signs believed in His name, but that He did not entrust Himself to them.

A. To give _________ as to why Jesus did not entrust Himself to those who had seen the signs and believed in His name, John the Beloved as moved by the _________ _________ went on to tell the story of Nicodemus. Nicodemus is an example of those who believed in Jesus name, but whom Jesus did not entrust Himself to.

I. A Pharisee named Nicodemus _________ to talk ________ _________.

A. Nicodemus respectfully tried to _________ Jesus by addressing Him as a Rabbi (_____________).

1. He said that he and others _________ that Jesus had come ________.
   a. They believed that Jesus had come from God as a teacher and as one whom God was with because of the signs He worked. In humanly believing in His name because of His signs, they _________ the _________ _________ of who He really was - the Christ, the Son of the Living God, God very God Himself.

II. _________ _________ Nicodemus.

A. Jesus told Nicodemus that unless one is _________ _________, they cannot see the kingdom of God (gain _________ _________).

B. Nicodemus wanted to know ________ one could be _________ again.

1. Nicodemus recognized that what Jesus said (that one must be born again to see the kingdom of God) was humanly _________ _________.

C. Jesus answered by affirming that it is humanly impossible _______ a _________ to be born again, but to enter into eternal life one must be born of water and the Spirit.

1. When Jesus speaks of being “born of water and the Spirit” He is not speaking of two different, but of _________ and the same _________, the _________ _________ _________ - being born again.

2. When Jesus speaks of being born of water and the Spirit, He is talking about the new birth which takes place, Titus 3:5, “by the washing of regeneration and _________ by the Holy Spirit,” which is spoken of by the prophet Ezekial! Ezekiel 36:25-27, “... ________ sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; ________ cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 "Moreover, ________ give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and
remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 "And ______ put My Spirit within you and _________ _______ to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."

D. When Jesus says “You _________ be born again” (in verse 7), He is affirming the ______________ necessity of the spiritual second birth that can take place only by the __________ of God according to the will of God.

1. Jesus told Nicodemus not to be confounded by the truth of the second birth, but to ______________ ___.

2. Like the wind that blows as _______ _______, so are those who are born again, born again by the Spirit of God as _______ _______.

3. As one commentator writes, “... Nicodemus still could not accept what he was hearing. He could not let go of his legalistic religious system and realize that salvation was a sovereign, ______________ _______ of God’s Spirit.” So, he asks, “How can these things be?”

4. Though the following verses seem to indicate that Nicodemus did not come to saving faith that night, later in 7:50-51 & 19:38-39, it appears that at some point, by the Sovereign will of God, that Nicodemus _______ come to ______ that Jesus was more than a mere teacher sent from God whom God was with, but that He was the Christ, the Son of the living God! Who can say? The Spirit of God moves as God wills. To _______ _____ all the _________!

Closing: Dear family, consider Matt 16:13-18, “Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He began asking His disciples, saying, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But _______ _____ _____ say that I am?" 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because _______ and blood _____ _____ reveal this to you, but My ___________ who ___ in heaven."

Now, beloved, who do you say that Jesus is? If you say anything less then that ________, then be careful to consider whether or not your faith be of God. But if you do say that Jesus is Lord and your life follows that confession, then ____________, for flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but the Father who is in heaven, for by the Sovereign grace of God as He promised long ago through the prophet Ezekial, _______ have been ____________ “by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. To God be the glory!

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