

Trinity Sunday

Truly, Truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. . . unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

When Nicodemus came to Jesus in the darkness of night, everything that He needed to know in order to be saved was all right before His eyes.

It is only that He couldn't see it.

He knew that Jesus was come from God and deserved to have a hearing—but without faith, he couldn't act on this in the light of day.

He knew all that the Old Testament taught about the Christ—that everything pointed to the Christ and to His New Testament with His people.

He just couldn't see that the man before Him was the Christ.

He couldn't see that the Old Testament was being fulfilled before Him.

Why not? is plainly answered, *“Unless one is born again he cannot see.”*

The eyes which God created out of the dust of the ground have been so blinded by sin that they are ineffectual in spiritual things.

The mind which God formed out of clay is twisted so that cannot understand the simplest things of God.

“How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”

A new birth is required—the fleshly birth leads to damnation—you need the birth of the Spirit if you would see and know and enter the Kingdom.

Do not wonder how this can be and do not wait for your earth-bound reason to catch on before believing these plain words of Jesus.

For you cannot even understand the first creation—how will you understand the second creation?

How can God make a rational human being out of clay?

How can mud be separated into so many tissues of different kind and function?

How can dust be set in motion so that it thinks, reasons, feels and runs?

When you can answer these questions, then you might inquire about the second creation with water and Spirit—but even then, it is doubtful.

How, then, dare this dust, this body of clay, think itself to instruct God or become His counselor in the possibilities of what He can and should do?

Human kind has never succeeded in cooking up even the simplest life.

But because we have learned to a little bit about how life functions, are we so brazen as to instruct life's Creator how He should behave and what to do?

This is not wisdom. This is not progress. It is but more evidence of our perversion.

A perversion and distortion that can only be remedied by being born all over again.

This is what you are given and promised in the water of Holy Baptism.

A birth far superior to your first birth—different like night against the day.

You now have a different Father, a different mother, different kin-folk, home-land, food, drink and clothing. A differing mind, spirit and way life.

With all of this given, would you want to return to your first birth?

*[Today, you are confirmed in this baptism and new birth.

Do not think that these years of instruction have moved you to the next stage.

Rather, they have returned you to your birthday--Your baptism into Christ.

Our study of the 10 commandments only put into words what you were already given in the baptismal water--*i.e.* the renunciation of Satan's works and ways.

And in these words, you have been given understanding to examine yourselves, to confess your sins and learn to do better.

Our study of the Creed did not explain God to you give you faith--it merely preached Christ to you and showed you from the Scriptures what you already believed in your baptismal faith.

The point is: Your new birth is and remains the pivotal event in your life no matter how you might grow intellectually.

No matter how smart, how strong or how educated you become, your only hope will always be to return to the new birth of Holy Baptism.]

Do not return to the darkness of night and sin-blinded understanding.

*Moreso, do not defend, nurture and cherish the flesh of your old birth.

This is done when you cherish your human father more than THE FATHER—

When blood is thicker than water and your kinfolk in blood are more valuable to you than the cloud of witnesses which have gone before.

When the money, and power and prestige and comfort of this world is more important to you than the riches of heaven.

When you are more hungry for Sunday dinner than for the Lord's Supper.

When the latest fashion is more coveted than the robe of righteousness.

In all these things, the flesh is nurtured and cherished above the spirit.

Do not cleave to your first birth, but joyfully receive your second birth—it is the only thing of lasting value.

This same flesh of the first birth rages against the Spirit seeking to destroy your new birth—they cannot peacefully live together.

The flesh can only be drowned and die with all sin and evil lusts.

This is done by the same Holy Spirit who drowned Him on the day of your baptism—which Spirit is always and only found where preaching is going on.

“The Spirit speaks where it wishes and you hear its voice.”

The voice of the Spirit is none other than the Word of God, Christ Jesus.

Where He is speaking and baptizing and feeding, there the Spirit is freely given who continues to drown the old man and raise up the new—continues to crucify the old Adam and feed and nourish the new.

Here, your second birth is nurtured and kept alive while the flesh that wars against the spirit is rebuked, put down and killed.

Here, you can see the Kingdom of God—for the eyes of faith overcome the blindness of reason.

The Dayspring from on high has lightened your darkened night.

Here, the Son of Man who was lifted up on the cross to crucify your sinful flesh in His body—is now lifted up before you in preaching and Sacrament that you might partake of His holy flesh born without sin.

Here, the Son of Man who ascended far above the heavens—descends to you in order to mount you up on His shoulders and carry you up.

Do not search how these things can be—only hear and believe the simple and plain Word of Christ and see into the Kingdom of God.

Whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

Behold, your iniquity is taken away and your sin purged. AMEN