

## WHAT JESUS SAID – THEN AND NOW

### His Most Important Words

**TEXT:** John 3:14-18

INTRODUCTION: I have labeled the text we are about to read “Jesus’ Most Important Words.”

I would not blame you if you asked, “How can you say that?”

- How can you say that some words of the Son of God are more important than other words,
- that some teachings are more valuable than others,
- that some messages are more critical to respond to than other messages Jesus gave?”

“Everything the Master said is important; every teaching is valuable; every message is needful of response.”

And I could not agree more.

And I probably would not dare to say that the words we are about to read are more important, this teaching more valuable, this message more critical – demanding our personal response except that I believe Jesus would have said the same.

Because when Jesus explained why He, the Son of God, had left the continual praise of angels in the Throne Room of Heaven to walk the dusty roads of Judea and Galilee, He said,

**Luke 19:10** for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

And Jesus asked this question:

**Mark 8:36** “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?”

So when a religious, educated, very moral man named Nicodemus came to Jesus one night, the Lord recognized that even with all of his spiritual credentials and recognitions this man was separated from God by his sin. If something very dramatic did not happen in his life that this Nicodemus would go from a seat on the Sanhedrin to an eternity in the flames of hell in a single heartbeat of time.

So, Jesus said, “Nicodemus, you must be born again.”

And Nicodemus asked, “How? How can a man be born twice?”

- And in answer to his question
- To enable Nicodemus to be born again, born from above

- To explain to this scholar in Scripture how to go to heaven instead of hell

Jesus spoke the words we are about to read.

Please, do not allow the familiarity of these words to lessen their impact upon your life.

- They are words that give life.
- They are words that open heaven's gates.
- I believe Jesus Himself would say they are His most important words.

John 3:14-18 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

## I. SALVATION DEPENDS ON THE SOVEREIGN CHOICE OF GOD.

A. Jesus referred Old Testament scholar Nicodemus to the story of Num. 21:4-9

1. God chose the provision - the serpent on the pole
2. God chose the method of appropriation - look upon the serpent
3. God declared the results of their faith - Anyone...who looked...lived.

## II. SALVATION DEPENDS ON THE ONLY PROVISION OF GOD.

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

A. "...even so must"

B. Jesus die on the cross

## III. SALVATION COMES THROUGH THE SINGULAR METHODOLOGY OF GOD.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

A. Believe = Trust

B. Whoever believes ...

1. should not perish.

**2. has everlasting life.**

John 3:18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**3. is not condemned.****C. He who does not believe is condemned.****IV. SALVATION ACCOMPLISHES THE PURPOSE OF GOD.**

**A. Those who believe are saved.** And Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

**B. Those who believe do not perish.** And God does not desire that any should perish.

**C. Those who believe have everlasting life.** Jesus said He came that we might have life.

CONCLUSION: What are you dealing with in your life that is more important than this matter?

Mark 8:36 “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?