

Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

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Today's Word: Sanhedrin

February 4, 2007

Are You:

- Sharing Your Testimony?
- Being a Good Example to Others?

Today's Scriptures

John 3-4

Next Week:

Lesson 6:

"They Straightway
Left Their Nets"

Luke 4: 14-22;

Luke 5; Luke 6: 12-16;

Matt 10

W.W. Austin
Gospel Doctrine Teacher
wendywarrenaustin@hotmail.com
<http://ideawarehouse.blogspot.com>

John 3:3—Jesus answered and said unto him [Nicodemus], Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

"Because they are Gods, our Heavenly Father and his son Jesus Christ are forevermore involved in change. Placing Adam and Eve and all forms of life on the earth at the Creation changed things. The Fall precipitated dramatic change. Then Jesus came to earth to change men and women—to reverse a downward trend that would otherwise continue toward dissolution. The gospel of Jesus Christ is all about change. Betterment. Improvement. Refinement. Transformation. To choose Christ is to choose to be changed, to be born again, to come alive to things of righteousness, to become a new creation of the Holy Ghost. Without such a change, we cannot see the kingdom of God, cannot recognize revealed truth and the relevance of that truth to our own lives. Through such a rebirth or conversion, we become attentive to a higher way of life, sensitive to spiritual things, enticed by goodness, attracted to holiness" (Robert L. Millet and Lloyd D. Newell, *Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee: Daily Reflections on the New Testament*, 28).

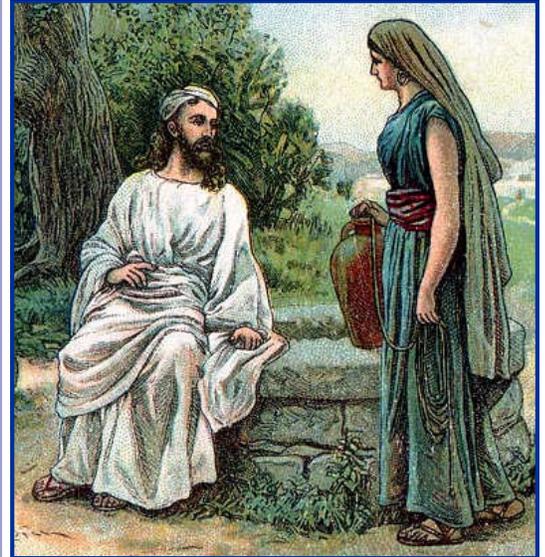
Sanhedrin (from Greek) is usually translated to mean joint session or great council, and was the highest Jewish council (of 71 elders) during Jesus' time, and included both Pharisees and Sadducees. They were like a Supreme Court of religious men and were adamantly opposed to Jesus Christ, so much so that they conspired to have Jesus killed. This was why Nicodemus, a Pharisee, came at night—in secret—to visit Jesus and hear him.

Elder Theodore M. Burton

"Without the nourishment provided by the atonement of Jesus Christ, baptism would remain just a dead form. Baptism alone cannot save us. Works alone cannot save us. Baptism must be accompanied by the granting of the Holy Ghost, which makes us spiritually alive just as God breathed into Adam the breath of life when he was created. Without the Holy Ghost, we would be spiritually stillborn and not have power to enter the presence of God the Eternal Father.

"When people of the world speak of being "saved," they refer to being saved from death to rise in the resurrection. This is the first part of the atonement of Jesus Christ as he described it. It is a pure gift of grace which Jesus Christ gives to every person who has lived on the earth, and is independent of the works we do. But to be exalted to eternal life and to be able to live the kind of life that God the Eternal Father lives requires not only the gift of grace that Jesus gives to all mankind through his atonement, but that gift coupled with our own obedience and conformity to all the requirements of righteous living prescribed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. Exaltation, or the eternal life Jesus spoke about, comes from a partnership with Jesus Christ, which begins in the ordinance of baptism, by which we are reborn, and is developed through a lifetime of righteous living" ("To Be Born Again," *Ensign*, Sept. 1985, 66).

Lesson 5: "Born Again"



Questions to Ponder

- What changes have you observed in yourself or someone else during the process of becoming born again?
- How have you been blessed or seen others blessed for believing in the Lord?