**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Miracle Births |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | John 3:1-7, 14-21 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1967 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Today’s message will discuss three miracle births:
      1. The sinner’s birth – our birth
      2. The Savior’s birth
      3. The second birth
         1. All three are miracles.
   2. John 3:1-7
      1. Whenever Jesus says, “*Verily, verily*”, that means to pay attention.
      2. Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jewish people.
         1. His name means “superior”.
         2. He was an educated man who was a leader among leaders.
      3. Nicodemus was intrigued by the miracles that Jesus had done, and he came to Jesus by night.
         1. He wanted to talk about miracles, but Jesus talked to him about births.
            1. Birth is the greatest miracle.
   3. Three births are mentioned in John 3:1-3.
      1. Nicodemus, a man of the Pharisees, had a natural birth.
      2. Nicodemus wanted to talk with Jesus about miracles, and that refers to the Savior’s birth.
         1. John 3:2
      3. John 3:3 speaks of the second birth.
2. the sinner’s birth (john 3:1,4-7)
   1. The sinner’s birth speaks of our physical birth.
   2. Nicodemus was born into the natural world.
      1. John 3:1, 4
         1. To be born physically is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.
            1. No one is born physically twice.
      2. John 3:6
         1. Jesus was not talking about a repetition of Nicodemus’ first birth.
            1. He was talking about a different kind of birth.
   3. Nicodemus was bound to the sinful world.
      1. When every man, woman, boy, and girl are born into the natural world, they are born with a sinful nature.
         1. Ephesians 2:3
            1. We are by nature children of wrath.
         2. Psalm 51:5
            1. Sin is on the inside of each of us when we are born.
      2. John 3:6
         1. When we speak about the flesh, we speak about the natural inclinations we receive from our first parents.
      3. Galatians 5:19-21
         1. “Lasciviousness” is unbridled lust.
         2. “Idolatry” is putting anything ahead of God.
         3. “Witchcraft” is consorting with the occult.
         4. “Hatred, variance, emulations” mean the stirring up of distasteful things.
         5. Nicodemus received these things when he was born of the flesh.
         6. We may have not done all of these things, but we have the flesh on the inside.
      4. It is not the amount of sin that condemns us; it is the fact of sin that condemns us.
         1. James 2:10
      5. The problem is not what a person does; the problem is what a person is.
         1. A person is not a sinner because he sins; he sins because he is a sinner.
         2. The problem is the flesh.
            1. John 3:6
      6. We have the idea that we can clean up our nature, but there is no way we can clean up a sinful nature.
   4. Nicodemus was blind to the spiritual world.
      1. John 3:3
      2. Nicodemus was a master in Israel and had many degrees, but he was blind to spiritual things.
         1. He could not understand them.
         2. Education cannot help us to see spiritual things.
      3. Ephesians 4:18
         1. The Bible describes a person born into the natural world as having his understanding darkened.
            1. His heart is blind.
            2. He may have 20/20 vision and intelligence, but he is ignorant of the things of God.
      4. There are certain things that we can never know until God the Holy Spirit turns the light on in our souls.
         1. Only the Holy Spirit can impart truth.
         2. It takes more than preaching for people to understand spiritual things.
            1. They may get the words, but they will never understand the meaning unless the Holy Spirit of God enlightens them.
            2. It takes more than light; it takes sight.

A person in a room full of light, if he is blind, still cannot see.

* 1. Nicodemus was a fine man and a ruler of the Jewish people, but he was only a natural man.
     1. 1 Corinthians 2:14

1. the savior’s birth (john 3:2, 14-21)
   1. John 3:2
      1. Jesus is more than a teacher come from God, He is God come to teach.
         1. Jesus is God in human flesh.
   2. John 3:14-18
   3. What is the purpose of the Savior’s birth?
      1. Jesus came in a ministry of redemption.
         1. John 3:16
            1. Like Nicodemus, we are sinners by nature, by birth, by practice, and by choice.
            2. We are sinners under condemnation, sinners deserving judgment, and sinners on the way to Hell.
         2. John 3:17
            1. God sent His Son to save the world in a ministry of redemption.

That’s the reason why Jesus was born of a virgin.

* + - 1. Why the virgin birth?
         1. The virgin birth is not incidental; the virgin birth is fundamental.

If we take away the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, then we take away the very foundation of Christianity.

Had Jesus been born like Nicodemus was born, then He would have inherited the sin of Adam.

“*n Adam all die*.”

1 Corinthians 15:22

* + - * 1. Jesus is God manifested in the flesh.

Jesus came out of Heaven and into this world through a virgin’s womb.

And so, Jesus did not have the nature of Adam.

Jesus had the nature of His Father in Heaven, Almighty God.

Had Jesus been born of Adam, He would have been born a sinner.

Therefore, Jesus could have been no sacrifice for sin.

The only sin He could have died for would have been His own.

* + - * 1. Jesus came as He did (born of a virgin), to be what He was (sinless), to do what He did (die on the cross) that we might be saved.
        2. Jesus became what He was (the Son of Man) that we might become children of God.
        3. He was born of a virgin that we might be born again.

He was born once that we might be born twice.

* + - * 1. He came to Earth that we might go to Heaven.

He came to redeem us.

* + - * 1. Apart from the virgin birth, there is no sinless sacrifice.

No sinless sacrifice, no redemption.

No redemption, no hope.

* + - * 1. John 3:17
    1. He came in a ministry of revelation.
       1. Jesus was born so that we might know God.
       2. John 3:19-21
          1. Jesus came into the world to give light, to help us to understand God.
       3. There is no way that we can know God apart from Jesus Christ.
          1. John 14:6
       4. Jesus came to reveal the heart of God, the mind of God, and the love of God.
    2. He came in a ministry of restoration.
       1. Jesus came that we might be born again.
       2. He came that we might be what God made us to be to begin with.

1. the second birth (john 3:4-5, 7)
   1. John 3:7
      1. If you are not born again, one day you will curse the day you were born at all.
      2. If you are not born twice, then you will die twice.
         1. But if you are born twice, then you will die once.
         2. The first death is the physical death; the second death is eternal death.
         3. If you are a Christian, then you have been born again.
            1. If you are not born again, then you are not a Christian.
      3. Jesus said that we must be born again.
         1. He did not say that it was a suggestion.
      4. If Nicodemus needed to be born again, then everyone needs to be born again.
         1. Nicodemus was Jewish.
            1. He was a member of the chosen race.
         2. He was a Pharisee, a ruler in the Sanhedrin.
         3. He was a religious man.
         4. He tried to keep the commandments.
            1. Yet, Jesus said to him, “You must be born again.”
   2. In order to be born again, there must be a conception.
      1. There can be no birth without a conception.
      2. John 3:4-5
         1. It takes two parents for a person to be born.
            1. The two parents in the new birth are water and the Spirit.
         2. In this passage, “*To be born of water*” is not talking about baptism.
            1. Baptism is not a symbol of birth; baptism is a symbol of death.

We are buried with Jesus by baptism unto death.

* + - * 1. Jesus was talking about the Word of God.

In the Old Testament, a metaphor for the Word of God is water.

Isaiah 55:10-11

God’s Word teaches that when we are saved, there is the washing of regeneration.

Ephesians 5:26

The Word of God is the seed that gives the new birth.

1 Peter 1:23

* + - * 1. In the new birth, the first parent is the Word of God.
      1. In the new birth, the second parent is the Spirit of God.
         1. Only the Spirit of God can impart truth.
    1. When the Word of God and the Spirit of God come together in the womb of faith, a conception takes place, and there is a new birth.
       1. John 3:16
  1. In a birth, there is a creation.
     1. Something new is brought into being.
     2. 2 Corinthians 5:17
     3. Christians are new people.
        1. A Christian is not someone who has progressed through life, like a tadpole who finally becomes a frog.
        2. A Christian is more like a frog who has become a prince by the kiss of grace.
           1. It is something radical and dramatic.
        3. We are absolutely new when we are born again.
     4. When a baby is conceived, there is a transference of life from the parents to the baby.
        1. The theme of the Gospel of John is life.
           1. “Life” is mentioned 36 times in the Gospel of John.
           2. John 10:10

Jesus has come to give us not existence, but life.

Jesus said this to people who are already existing.

* 1. In a birth, a character is produced.
     1. A child has the character of the parents.
     2. We do the things that we do because we are children of Adam.
        1. We are not made in the image of God.
           1. Adam was made in the image of God, but that image was marred in Adam.
           2. Genesis 5:3
        2. We share the character and nature of Adam before we are saved.
           1. Ephesians 2:3
        3. We have inherited the sinful nature from our first parents.
     3. When we are saved, we get a new nature from our new parents.
        1. 2 Peter 1:4
           1. Without a new birth, we cannot be partakers of the divine nature.
     4. When a birth takes place, a character is produced.
        1. When you are born into God’s family, you will have the character and the nature of God.
        2. If your religion has not changed your life, then you had better change your religion.
           1. You have not been saved.
           2. When you get saved, you don’t just join a church and get baptized.

A character is produced.

* + 1. What are the traits of the twice-born?
       1. There will be a deep love for Jesus and His Word.
          1. You will love what God loves, and God loves His own dear Son.
          2. John 7:47-50

When there was an argument about who Jesus was, Nicodemus stood up for Jesus.

* + - * 1. Any person who is truly saved will love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Is Jesus real to you?

* + - 1. There will be the inner witness of the Spirit because you are born of the Spirit.
         1. John 3:5
         2. Romans 8:9, 16
         3. The witness of the Spirt is not an emotional experience.

It is not getting wet around the eyes and warm around the heart.

You may have those things, but the witness of the Spirit goes far beyond emotion.

Emotions are fickle.

If we depend upon our feelings for the assurance of our salvation, then the assurance of our salvation will vary.

Our emotions are the shallowest part of our nature.

Salvation is the deepest work of God.

God does not do His deepest work in the shallowest part.

* + - * 1. The witness of the Spirit is the awareness that we belong to Him.
      1. You will have the nature of your Father.
         1. The nature of God is holy.

Isaiah 6:3

* + - * 1. The love of sin and the desire to sin are not there.

This does not mean that you will never sin or be tempted.

Hebrews 4:15

It is not a sin to be tempted.

The faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted.

If you do sin, it doesn’t mean that you’ve never been saved.

1 John 1:8

* + - * 1. The new nature is opposed to sin.

Before we are saved, we run to sin.

After we are saved, we run from sin.

* + - * 1. When God saves you, He does not fix you up where you cannot sin anymore.

He fixes you up where you cannot sin and enjoy it anymore.

* + - * 1. If the love of sin has not died in your life and you do not have a desire to be like Jesus, then ask yourself, “Have I been born again, or am I just a church member?”
      1. There will be a desire to tell others about Jesus.
         1. Life wants to begat more life.

It wants to reproduce.

* + - * 1. John 3:21
  1. A birth is a completion.
     1. A birth is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.
     2. Luke 10:17-20
        1. The word “written” here means, “It is written, and it stands written”.
     3. John 3:4
     4. A person cannot be born physically twice, and he cannot be born spiritually twice.
        1. There is only one birth in any realm.
        2. You cannot find anywhere in the Bible where anyone was ever saved twice.
           1. You can’t find it any more than you can find where someone has had two physical births.
        3. A birth is a once-in-a-lifetime experience; it is a completion.
     5. We may get out of fellowship in the natural realm, and we may get out of fellowship in the spiritual realm.
        1. But when we get out of fellowship with our Father, we will never cease to be His child.
           1. He may chastise you, but He will never disown you.
  2. A birth is a commencement.
     1. Once you are born, you are born; but you are not born full grown.
        1. You have to learn how to walk and talk.
     2. All of your sins are in the past and are buried in the grave of God’s forgetfulness.
        1. You will never see a policeman arresting a newborn child for the crimes he has committed because a newborn child has no yesterdays; he is all tomorrows.
           1. It is the same with the new birth.

We receive a brand-new future.

* + - 1. Psalm 103:12
    1. We begin to grow.
       1. When a baby is born, he already has all that he needs to walk and talk.
          1. He just has to discover the facilities that God built in him and develop them.
       2. After you come to Jesus, you begin to discover what all you received when you became a Christian.
          1. Some people talk about the second blessing.

But the second blessing is discovering what we got in the first blessing.

* + - * 1. When we get Jesus, we get everything.

Colossians 2:9

* + - * 1. We don’t get Jesus and then get the Holy Spirit later on.

The Holy Spirit is Jesus in you.

John 14:18

* + - * 1. Romans 8:9
        2. Jesus does not come into us physically, but He comes in through His Spirit.
    1. We do not have to grow up and then come to Jesus.
       1. Come just as you are, and give your heart to the Lord Jesus.
          1. Then, a commencement will begin.

You will grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.

* + - 1. You are all tomorrows.
         1. Psalm 103:12
         2. God gives us a brand-new start.

The Bible calls that a new birth.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. Nicodemus was born into the natural world, bound to the sinful world, and blind to the sinful world.
   2. Jesus Christ was born of a virgin so that we might be born again.
   3. You can be born again today.
      1. There is the Word of God, and there is the Spirit of God.
      2. Your heart can become the womb where conception takes place.
         1. It must be the womb of willingness.
         2. It must be the womb of faith.
      3. John 3:16
   4. Luke 9:26
   5. Matthew 10:32
   6. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   7. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31