

John 3:9-13

The Text of John 3:9-13

John 3:9 – *“Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?”*

- A. “How” is a question frequently asked (**John 3:4, John 6:52, John 14:5, Luke 1:31-33, etc.**).
1. Jesus is God (**Matthew 1:23, John 5:16-17, John 20:26-29, Acts 20:28, Romans 9:1-5, and I Timothy 3:16**).
 2. Since Jesus is God, the answer is that with God all things are possible (**Genesis 18:14, Jeremiah 32:27, Matthew 19:23-26, and Luke 1:36-37**).
- B. These things refer back to spiritual rebirth (**John 3:5-8**).
1. Understanding spiritual things requires one to think outside his/her fleshly mind (**I Corinthians 2:13-15**).
 2. When one is converted, through the Gospel, that person needs to think in spiritual terms about all things (**I Peter 2:5; cf. I Corinthians 6:20**).
 3. Truth has to work on the inward parts of a man (**Psalms 51:6; 10**).

John 3:10-11 - *“(10) Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? (11) Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.”*

- A. Nicodemus was a teacher in Israel, but was ignorant of spiritual matters (**I Timothy 1:7**).
1. When one takes on the task of being a teacher, much is expected of that individual (**Ezekiel 3:17-18, Matthew 5:19, Acts 20:26-27, and James 3:1**).
 2. The Jews who professed to be teachers were often hypocrites (**Romans 2:1-29**).
 3. The Jews who professed to be teachers often misled the people of Israel because they were unconcerned about the truth (**Isaiah 9:16, Isaiah 56:10, Jeremiah 2:8, Jeremiah 8:8-9, Malachi 2:11-13, and Matthew 15:1-14**).
- B. The “we” in verse eleven had to be Jesus and John the Baptist as they were the only ones teaching at that time (**Mark 1:14**).
1. We should learn from the example of speaking that which we know (**John 7:16, cf. II Timothy 2:2**).
 2. Testimony occurs when one sees and reports what they have seen (**I John 4:14**).
 3. The testimony of the faithful is often rejected (**John 1:11, John 3:32-34, and John 5:43; cf. Isaiah 65:2**).

John 3:12-13 - *“(12) If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? (13) And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.”*

A. Those who don't get carnal things certainly will not be able to understand spiritual things (**I Corinthians 3:1-3**).

1. Nicodemus would not believe things he could see, how could he believe that which he did not see (**II Corinthians 5:7**).

2. One has to have a willingness to be taught what they cannot see (**Job 34:32**).

B. No man has been to heaven to be a witness for God (**John 1:18**).

1. This dispels the “you die and go to heaven” doctrine (cf. **Luke 16:19-31**).

2. Moreover, as it applies to our context, this shows that no person in the flesh could testify as Jesus could because they've not been where He was (**Proverbs 30:2-4** and **John 8:23-24**).