

The Wagon Ride

Suggested Props to Use:

- † Hay Wagon Ride
- † Verse John 3:3 on Cardboard
- † Verse John 3:6-7 on Cardboard

Additional information:

We put all of the Children's Church kids on a Hay Wagon; then with the tractor pulled them around the pasture on a short ride: parked in the shade of the Arena building; turned off the tractor and setup for lesson time. Lesson is a brief; soul-winning message.



Introduction:

Get on Board:

Get on Board! That's what we told everyone today so they can enjoy the hayride.

- † But what if we had TWO trailers here.
- † One hooked up to the tractor; one not hooked up to anything.
- † Some people got on the one trailer hooked up to the tractor.
- † Then some people got on the trailer not hooked up to anything.
- † EVERYONE is on a trailer!
- † But when I start the tractor, some get to enjoy the trip while others are left behind.

The Church you go to and in fact, the very people that label themselves as "Christian" is similar to what I just said about the trailer:

- † Some people join or attend a church because of the donuts and coffee. Nothing wrong with donuts and coffee! But that's not sufficient to make you a Christian.
- † Some people join or attend a church because of the friends they have there. Nothing wrong with friends at the local church. It's a good thing most of time. But that's not sufficient to make you a Christian.
- † Some people join or attend a church because they like the music. Nothing wrong with good music! But again, nothing there to make you a Christian.
- † Some people join or attend a church to be well thought of in the community; to participate in things like Habitat for Humanity; Relay for Life; and other good organizations and causes. Nothing wrong with these causes; they are needed and are good things. But again, nothing there to make you a Christian.

Main Message:

So let's see what Jesus has to say about all this:

- † Jesus and this very religious man named Nicodemus are having a conversation.
- † Nicodemus has come to Jesus after nightfall; didn't want any of his church buddies to see him.
- † Nic was a big man in the synagogue; many Bible scholars think he was one of the Sanhedrin which was a very powerful group of 71 men kind of like elders only with more governing powers in the country through the church.
- † Nicodemus has just made a statement to Jesus, bragging on, complementing Jesus.
- † He called Jesus "Rabbi" recognizing him as a teacher and as a miracle worker.
- † Nicodemus tells Jesus that he understands Jesus must have God on his side to do all the miracles.

Jesus never acknowledges the compliments. Instead, he goes straight to the heart of the matter: [Hold up the John 3:3 card]

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

Jesus just messed up this guy's whole understanding of the Scriptures. The Old Testament told of keeping the laws and told of the coming of the Messiah. They thought the laws were more important than the Messiah since the Messiah had not come yet [in their opinion].

- † You see, like most folks, Nicodemus and his "church" thought that keeping the Ten Commandments and other laws of God would get them to Heaven.
- † Jesus and the Bible tell us that no man can keep the law. In fact, it tells us that if you break one law or commandment, you have broken them all.
- † Jesus tells us that He came to fulfill that law.

So let's reread that verse again: Jesus.....except a man be BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Just like Nicodemus we need some clarification or understanding of this statement. Nicodemus says "what? How can I re-enter my mother's womb and be born again". Nicodemus was on the wrong wagon !

Let's read on:

John 3:6-7 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

Born of flesh is like this: we all have a birthday. So on the count of three, everybody tell me your birthday all at once: One, Two, Three:..... OK, that's your flesh birthday. Now Jesus tells us in the Bible also, that until you are saved, that is, born again, you are "dead" in your sin. In other words, you have to have a time and a place when you do business with God or you are only going to have a Flesh Birthday.

When you ask Jesus to come into your heart, to forgive you of your sins, to become your Savior, then you are born spiritually.....born of the Spirit. ".....*Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*"

At this point the message time is handed over to the Salvation Explained Segment of our Message: This is where we use the Salvation Flash cards found under the Salvation Heading on our Website.

Message is complete.