

Accidental Pharisee – The Antidote John 3:1-18

So, what do we do if after hearing the last 6 weeks of sermons on “Accidental Pharisees” that **we discover that we might be one?**

- What if we realize that our faith is not evident in both word & in deed?
- What if we do compare ourselves to others & respond with arrogance?
- What if we would rather thin the herd than expand the family?
- What if we do spend too much time looking in the rearview mirror rather than looking ahead at what God is doing today, and in the future?
- What if we do think everyone needs to be just like us, rather than be who God created them to be, and do what He created them to do?
- What if we discovered that uniformity is what we have been seeking, rather true Biblical unity?

Then you might be a Pharisee... but there's hope for you... and for me... because though there is a little bit of pharisee in all of us, **the power of the gospel is greater than our resistance to it!**

A “Pharisee” does not have to be a life-long designation!

Remember Joseth of Arimathea... He was a part of the counsel (likely a Pharisee) that turned Jesus over to Pilate to be crucified... but then at Jesus' death, he was the only one who honored Him by giving Him his tomb for burial!

Remember Saul of Tarsus (a Pharisee of Pharisees)... who later became Paul! **Once imprisoned to the Law... but later imprisoned for the cause of Christ!**

Remember Nicodemus... A Pharisee who questioned Jesus about many things, but it was this encounter with Jesus & this Pharisee, that clearly revealed the mystery and power of the gospel!

Without the Pharisees, we may not have been able to clearly distinction between what is “Law”, & what is “gospel”... **what is “works” & what is “faith.”**

And without recognizing the “Pharisee” that exists in all of us, we may not as quickly turn to the promises of the gospel & receive the hope & life it brings!

If there is hope for Joseph or Arimathea, for Saul/Paul, & for Nicodemus, then there is hope for us too! We can be “reborn”, & set free, from being a Pharisee!

John 3:1-18 – **The pathway from Pharisee to follower of Jesus is R.E.B.I.R.T.H.**

R – Realization of the truth – We must come to the realization that we don't bring enough to the table - good works... knowledge... ability... We need

what we do not possess! That is why we must turn elsewhere... to Christ!

E – Encounter with Jesus – We all need an encounter with Jesus if we ever hope to hear the truth... see the truth... and come to know the truth!

B – Believe the gospel – Knowledge of the truth is not enough... believing in the Truth – Jesus Christ, is what takes us from a state of death to life!

I – Indwelling of the Holy Spirit – It is the gift of the Spirit that makes rebirth possible! *“You must be born again.” “Flesh to flesh... Spirit to Spirit!”*

R – Repentance as a lifestyle – The Spirit will convict us sin... righteousness... & judgment... **John 16:8** That conviction leads to repentance... continually!

T – Transformative evidence – The evidence of a new life is a new life! Maybe we need to stop asking the question, *“Are you saved?”* and instead ask, *“Have you been born again?”* Is the Christian faith more than just behavioral modification... Intellectual ascent... Have we really experienced the newness of a life being transformed... remade... reborn...? Is it evident?

H – Hope for eternity – Do we live with hope? Hope in something/ someone bigger than ourselves? A hope that transcends this world? Being reborn spiritually is a rebirth with no end – it is for eternity!

Joseph of Arimathea, a part of the Sanhedrin, experienced this R.E.B.I.R.T.H. & became a disciple of Jesus! He went against the decision of the counsel... Remained present with Jesus until His death... Offered up his own tomb for Him.

It is obvious that Saul/Paul, a Pharisee, experienced this R.E.B.I.R.T.H. too! Just read the New Testament, most of it's written by him, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit! **It's a living testimony of the transforming power of rebirth!**

Though there is no Biblical evidence that Nicodemus completely hung up his pharisee hat and became a disciple of Jesus, we do see a few pieces of evidence that indicate that he was at least on that trajectory!

- **“Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” – John 3:2**
- **John 7:50-52** – Nicodemus defends Jesus before the Pharisees and gets questioned about being a follower himself... and **he doesn't deny it!**
- **John 19:39-42** – Nicodemus is present with Joseph of Arimathea & helps him prepare Jesus' body for burial. **What Pharisee would do that?** One transformed by rebirth! Have we experienced this rebirth? *It's the antidote*

Accidental Pharisee – The Antidote John 3:1-18

So, what do we do if after hearing the last 6 weeks of sermons on “Accidental Pharisees” that we discover that we _____

- What if we realize that our faith is not evident in both word & in deed?
- What if we do compare ourselves to others & respond with arrogance?
- What if we would rather thin the herd than expand the family?
- What if we do spend too much time looking in the rearview mirror rather than looking ahead at what God is doing today, and in the future?
- What if we do think everyone needs to be just like us, rather than be who God created them to be, and do what He created them to do?
- What if we discovered that uniformity is what we have been seeking, rather true Biblical unity?

Then you might be _____ but there’s hope for you... and for me... because though there is a little bit of pharisee in all of us, the power of the gospel is greater than our _____ to it!

A “Pharisee” does not have to be a life-long designation!

Remember Joseth of Arimathea... He was a part of the counsel (likely a Pharisee) that turned Jesus over to Pilate to be crucified... but then at Jesus’ death, he was the only one who honored Him by giving Him his tomb for burial!

Remember Saul of Tarsus (a Pharisee of Pharisees)... who later became Paul! Once imprisoned to the Law... but later imprisoned for the cause of _____

Remember Nicodemus... A Pharisee who questioned Jesus about many things, but it was this encounter with Jesus & this Pharisee, that clearly revealed the mystery and power of the gospel!

Without the Pharisees, we may not have been able to clearly distinction between what is “Law”, & what is “gospel”... what is _____ & what is _____

And without recognizing the “Pharisee” that exists in all of us, we may not as quickly turn to the promises of the gospel & receive the hope & life it brings!

If there is hope for Joseph or Arimathea, for Saul/Paul, & for Nicodemus, then there is hope for us too! We can be “reborn”, & set free, from being a Pharisee!

John 3:1-18 – The pathway from Pharisee to follower of Jesus is _____

R – _____ **of the truth** – We must come to the realization that we don’t bring enough to the table - good works... knowledge... ability... We need

what we do not possess! That is why we must turn elsewhere... to Christ!

E – _____ **with Jesus** – We all need an encounter with Jesus if we ever hope to hear the truth... see the truth... and come to know the truth!

B – _____ **the gospel** – Knowledge of the truth is not enough... believing in the Truth – Jesus Christ, is what takes us from a state of death to life!

I – _____ **of the Holy Spirit** – It is the gift of the Spirit that makes rebirth possible! *“You must be born again.” “Flesh to flesh... Spirit to Spirit!”*

R – _____ **as a lifestyle** – The Spirit will convict us sin... righteousness... & judgment... **John 16:8** That conviction leads to repentance... continually!

T – _____ **evidence** – The evidence of a new life is a new life! Maybe we need to stop asking the question, *“Are you saved?”* and instead ask, *“Have you been born again?”* Is the Christian faith more than just behavioral modification... Intellectual ascent... Have we really experienced the newness of a life being transformed... remade... reborn...? Is it evident?

H – _____ **for eternity** – Do we live with hope? Hope in something/ someone bigger than ourselves? A hope that transcends this world? Being reborn spiritually is a rebirth with no end – it is for eternity!

Joseph of Arimathea, a part of the Sanhedrin, experienced this R.E.B.I.R.T.H. & became a disciple of Jesus! He went against the decision of the counsel... Remained present with Jesus until His death... Offered up his own tomb for Him.

It is obvious that Saul/Paul, a Pharisee, experienced this R.E.B.I.R.T.H. too! Just read the New Testament, most of it’s written by him, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit! It’s a _____ of the transforming power of rebirth!

Though there is no Biblical evidence that Nicodemus completely hung up his pharisee hat and became a disciple of Jesus, we do see a few pieces of evidence that indicate that he was at least on that trajectory!

- **“Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” – John 3:2**
- **John 7:50-52** – Nicodemus defends Jesus before the Pharisees and gets questioned about being a follower himself... and he _____
- **John 19:39-42** – Nicodemus is present with Joseph of Arimathea & helps him prepare Jesus’ body for burial. What _____ would do that? One transformed by rebirth! Have we experienced this rebirth? *It’s the antidote*