

This Great Doctor Was So Great a Dunce

by Thomas Brooks

The sermon explores Nicodemus's misunderstanding of regeneration and highlights the necessity of spiritual rebirth for true understanding of faith.

Scripture: John 3:3, Romans 8:5-6, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:1-5, 1 Peter 1:23

Topics: "Regeneration", "Spiritual Understanding"

Description

Thomas Brooks emphasizes the profound misunderstanding of spiritual truths by Nicodemus, a respected Pharisee who, despite his religious practices, was ignorant of the necessity of being born again. He illustrates that true regeneration is a mystery to those who rely solely on their natural understanding, likening Nicodemus's confusion to a child's grasp of complex concepts. Brooks argues that without spiritual rebirth, one cannot rise above their natural state, highlighting the need for divine intervention in understanding spiritual matters.

Transcript

("Touchstone of Sincerity")

Nicodemus was a man of great note, name, and fame among the pharisees, and he fasted, and prayed, and gave alms, and paid tithes, etc., and yet was a total stranger to the new birth. Regeneration was a paradox to him. "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb and be born?" This great doctor was so great a dunce, that he understood no more of the doctrine of regeneration, than a mere child does the highest precepts of astronomy! As water can rise no higher than the spring from whence

it came, so the natural man can rise no higher than nature.

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