

John 3: 16 ... *I Believe Now What?*

This verse is the one most people turn to, to claim all you have to do to be saved is believe. Let us examine this in its context. To demonstrate the need to stay in context I will have you turn in your bible to **Mat 21:1, 2** And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, 2 Saying unto them, **Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me.** Now taking this out of context we could conclude Jesus was telling his disciples to steal this ass and colt. However, by keeping in context we can see this is not the case. Mat 21:3 **And if any man says ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them, and straightway he will send them.**

Turn in your bible to Mark 11: 2- 6 and Luke 19: 30- 34 and get the same account, however, Luke 19: 34 tells us it was the owners that challenged them. The owners must have had some means of knowing Jesus was the master and he had commanded his disciples to go and take these animals. Hopefully, this will demonstrate to you the need of keeping things in context. We hear on the news media all the time things being taken out of context to get someone to say what the writer or newscaster wants people to believe. Context is important.

Now let us go back to John chapter 3. Here we see Nicodemus, come to Jesus by night and acknowledged Jesus was a teacher from God and gave the reason he believed this v.2. Then Jesus told him one had to be born again to enter the kingdom of God v. 3. (This will be another topic for later, but the kingdom of God and the church are the same). Nicodemus, of course, was thinking of a physical rebirth and Jesus was talking of a spiritual rebirth. Verse 5 confirms Jesus was talking about spiritual rebirth, being born of water and the spirit is baptism, Continue reading on through v. 6- 21 this is the full context of John 3: 16. When you consider Mark 16: 15, 16 and Acts 2: 38; 22: 16 this would show baptism is being born again and of course one that does not believe will not be baptized. To make it crystal clear belief alone will not save, there has to be obedience, submission to God's plan of salvation to be saved. Also, consider 1Pe 3:21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: The full context of I Peter 3: 21 starts in verse 8. Keeping in context is important in keeping with God's plan of salvation. Man's plan will not save you, you may think you are saved but when compared to God's plan it is lacking. If you have questions call me, Phone # 816-229-2021. Leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

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