

—a respectable, moral man, devoted to the Church and State and honored in their high offices. What a blow in the face it must have been for Nicodemus to be told, and told by the King Himself, that he had not reached the true culture of life and never would until he had been born again.

Let us not marvel at that either in his case or in our own. The truth is that the only way to truly enter into a kingdom is to be born into it. Except a man be born with brains he cannot enter into the kingdom of intellect. Except a man be born with artistic instincts he cannot enter into the kingdom of art. Except a man be born with poetic impulses he cannot enter into the kingdom of poetry. Poets are born not made. So are Christians, who at their best represent the highest culture. Reasons enough there are, God knows, why we require such a miracle upon our inner life. Every other conceivable means has been tried to make life different but it has not availed. Philosophy was tried. Philanthropy was tried. Reformation was tried. Environment was tried. But all in vain. Nothing short of a regeneration from within will make life new