

The CHOSEN with Hosanna!



SEASON 3: EPISODE 5

SCHEDULE

July 14-26 - Watch Episodes 5-6

July 27, 6:45-8:00 - Discuss Episodes 5-6

July 28-August 16 - Watch Episodes 7-8

August 17, 6:45-8:00 - Discuss Episodes 7-8

WEBSITE

- Hosanna's Study Website: www.hosannatogether.org/chosen

BACKGROUND NOTES

- Introductory warning... This episode begins with loss. Simply be aware that it could be triggering for some people. If it is for you, it's okay to take some time after the scene to process those emotions. The female character at the center of the scene is Eden.
- Some of the characters are wearing different clothes in this episode, and it switches scenes quickly. If it's helpful, here are the characters we see in the following scenes:
 - Simon and Eden, in their home
 - James and John, their father Zebedee, and their mother, in their home
 - Nathaniel and Thaddeus, on the road carrying water
 - Zebedee (father of James and John), Mary, Tamar, and Judas, in the olive grove
 - Simon and Gaias, at a well/cistern
 - Jairus and Yussif (who we now know is Joseph of Arimathea)
 - Jesus, Eden, Andrew, Matthew, Philip, Little John, sitting around a table at Eden's house
 - Others begin to arrive and the stories begin to overlap, but it gets easier to identify people...
- When someone died, it was customary to pay people to weep and play the flute. It was a way of showing how important the person was, and what a loss their death is. The more you could afford, the more mourners, and thus, the bigger impact of their death.
- As we learned in Episode 4, Jewish law dictated that if someone touched a bleeding person (especially a bleeding woman) or a corpse, that person would become unclean until sundown, and must carry out certain washing rituals to cleanse themselves. This is one reason why many people passed by the injured man in the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

- Zebedee (the father James and John) sells boat so that he can buy an olive grove and start making oil. Why does he do this now? What emotions do you witness happening in him? Is this just a mid-life crisis, or is this something different?
- What do you think about Simon and Gaius working together?
 - What do they share in common? How does that compare to their differences?
- Did you imagine Gaius having a son? A family? Being a good guy? Why not?
 - There are several types of “bad guy” in the Bible. Is this really fair for us to judge them in this way, or were they more complicated characters like us?
 - What does that change about how we read the Biblical stories?
- Why didn’t Simon take the time to ask Eden what is wrong? Why didn’t she just tell him?
 - How often do we all hold things in, or avoid the elephant in the room because it’s hard or because we’re too busy?
- Jairus tells Yusef that he doesn’t have time for pity. What do we need when we’re hurting or desperate? Pity or compassion? Which do we usually give?
- Jesus’ face when the disciples don’t get his new wine in old wineskin metaphor is priceless. Andrew says, “I will be the first to admit that I don’t get it” How often do you struggle to really understand the things Jesus says and does? How do we find help “getting it?”
 - Simon later tells Gaius: “We [Jews] love riddles. We call those ones metaphors.”
Why does God use metaphor so much?
- Simon objects to Gaius, “We have parties, too.” Gaius responds, “From the look of it, they aren’t as fun as ours.” Simon: “It depends on your definition . . . Another thing we have is prophecies.”
 - Then Simon quotes Jeremiah: “My people have committed two evils. They have forsaken me, the Fountain of Living Waters. And hewed out cisterns for themselves--broken cisterns, that can hold no water.” - Jeremiah 2:14
 - Gaius responds, : “It sounds like you’ve forsaken your god.” How have we forsaken God? (not the “godless” people not in church, or “those sinners,” but us, the faithful)
- What happens when Veronica touches Jesus?
 - How would you have responded to Jesus’ questioning if you were her?
- Jesus talks with Veronica: “My daughter... “I’m no one’s daughter anymore.” “Look up. Yes you are. Daughter. It wasn’t my piece of clothing that healed you . . . It was your faith.”
 - What do you think about Jesus tearing up in this part?
 - What does it mean for our faith to make us well? What can faith do or not do for us?
Why is faith so deeply important to Jesus?
- Jesus says to Veronica, “You have blessed me today. And I know, my daughter, I know it has been a fight for you for so long. You must be exhausted. Go now in peace. Your faith has made you well. I wish I could stay longer, but I have business to attend to. Someone else has faith like yours. I am so glad that we found each other.” How did *she* bless *Jesus*?
 - Can you imagine Jesus looking into your eyes and thanking you for trusting in Him?
(Read Hebrews 11:6)

- Jesus: “Do not be afraid. Only believe. She will be well.”
 - Why is it so difficult to believe and trust Jesus? What are we used to expecting? Why?
 - What should we be able to expect?
- Why are the disciples dumbfounded by what happens raising Jairus’ daughter?
Are you still ever surprised by what God does in your life?
- Jesus says, “It is not yet time for the commotion that will result. Some of it won’t be good. And you don’t need that.”
 - None of them are to tell anyone what happened (not even to the others). Why not?
- As the episode ends, Eden is watching the disciples play in the water. How does it make you feel when you see others celebrating when you yourself cannot?