

The CHOSEN with Hosanna!



SEASON 4: EPISODE 2

SCHEDULE

Before October 29 - Watch Episodes 1-2

October 29, 6:00-7:15 - Discuss Episodes 1-2

October 30-November 11 - Watch Episodes 3-4

November 12, 6:00-7:15 - Discuss Episodes 3-4

November 13-25 - Watch Episodes 5-6

November 26, 6:00-7:15 - Discuss Episodes 5-6

November 27-December 9 - Watch Episodes 7-8

December 10, 6:00-7:15 - Discuss Episodes 7-8

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

BACKGROUND NOTES

- The actor who plays Philip has changed this season.
- Shiva (meaning “seven”) is the seven-day period of formalized mourning by a family after the burial of a loved one. It is normal (and even encouraged) to share public signs of grief, instead of hiding it. It is a Jewish ritual that leads mourners through the first days of intense grief and disorientation back to life and the world of the living. Others may “sit” shiva with the bereaved, offering accompaniment and compassion so that they aren’t alone in their grief. This is just the first stage of grief in the Jewish tradition.
- As Yussif is dressing, he is reciting scripture from Ecclesiastes.
- The organization of rabbis that we witness gathering are the Great Sanhedrin, made up of 70 or 71 rabbis. They operated as a Jewish law-making body and supreme court.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- While grieving with Jesus, Andrew asks, “Can we be laughing?” Jesus responds, “Why not? You know, some of the moments in which we laugh the hardest come around the time of a funeral. Our hearts are so tender. All of our emotions are right at the surface. Laughter and tears are closer than over.”
 - Why do we tell stories and laugh when we are at funerals or gathered with others grieving?
 - Where is the boundary between appropriate and inappropriate humor at this time?

- Andrew continues: “I feel guilty. I should be in shambles.” Jesus replies: “No Andrew. There is no ‘should’ in grief. There is no right way to mourn. You’ve already experienced much grief when John was arrested.”
 - How do you do grief?
 - When have you experienced loss and grief, even before someone died?
- Jesus tells Thomas, “People seem to think they know why I’m here. Do you think I’ve come to give peace on earth? I’ve not come to bring peace, but a sword. I mean division, you see. Within households and beyond . . . It is not my intention to divide families. But the cost of following me can mean that people will be hated by those closest to them because of their unbelief.”
 - When has your faith (or acting on the values of your faith) caused conflict between you and someone close to you? Why do you think that is?
- Jesus states: “Honoring your parents is one of the highest social and spiritual obligations. But it is not higher than following God. Whoever loves father and mother more than me is not worthy of me.”
 - Are these words hard to hear? Why would Jesus say this?
- Jesus asks, “Who do you say that I am?” to which Simon responds, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. These carved statues of Ba’al and Pan, and other idols we passed, they are dead and decaying, and we worship a living God. And you, you are His Son.”
 - What does it mean that our God is “living”?
- Jesus proclaims, “Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in Heaven. All your life you’ve been called Simon, ‘one who hears.’ But today, I call you Peter. Rock. It is on this rock that I will build my church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.”
 - Knowing what you know of Simon, what think this means to him?
 - What weight comes with this? How do you see Peter struggling with that weight?
 - When have you struggled with the weight of God’s calling to you?
- “This is a place of death. And I brought you here to tell you that death has no power to hold my redeemed people captive. Because I live, you will also live. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. And whatever you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven. And whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven. You have the authority to declare the truth to others of what I am declaring to you, that the repentant have a place in heaven.”
 - Binding and loosing the Law was traditionally something a rabbi would do. Because there couldn’t possibly be a law for every situation, it was their job to decide if a law applied (bind it) or didn’t apply (loose it) to someone’s situation.
 - What does Jesus mean by giving “the Keys to the Kingdom”?
- When asked why the disciples shouldn’t tell people Jesus was the Messiah, he said, “For some places and some people, it is important that they know and believe. But right now, if all our people of this region hear that the Messiah has come, they will rise up in multitudes preparing to join a military figure in a war against Rome. I want people to follow me based on my true identity . . . Not based on their misguided understanding of a title I hold.”
 - What misunderstandings do we still have of the titles Jesus holds? What does it mean to you that Jesus is Lord, Savior, Messiah, Good Shepherd, Redeemer, Son of God?
 - Do you follow Jesus because of his titles, or because of his true identity? What is it about his identity that leads you to follow?

- Jesus spoke of John the Baptist: “John was fearless of evil, and obedient everywhere. And so must you be, even at the gates of hell.”
 - When have you felt like you were at the gates of hell? How did you act?
- Jesus tells Matthew, “You don’t apologize to be forgiven. You apologize to repent. Forgiveness is a gift given from the other person.”
 - What’s the difference? And what does repentance mean?
 - How does this shift your understanding of why we confess our sins?
- As Matthew is talking about how he might have harmed Simon Peter, Jesus interrupts him and says, “No. Not in abstract. In fact.”
 - When have you chosen to confess in the abstract and with generalities, instead of specifics? Why would that have been easier?
 - What difference does it make to be specific?
 - When do you have the opportunity to be specific with your confession of sin?
- Matthew is afraid of talking to Peter, saying, “Apologizing would only cause an argument.” Jesus responds, “There is no peace when two of my followers hold resentment to one another.”
 - When has silence over sin impacted a relationship you were in? How did it hurt both the offender and the offended?
- What do you think about Peter’s struggle to forgive Matthew? Should he have forgiven him right away? Why or why not?
 - What wrongs have been hardest to forgive in your life? Why?
- Jesus tells Peter, “You know I don’t mean 77 times. Seventy times seven. Completion times completion. Endless forgiveness without limits.”
 - Is Jesus suggesting we let people wound us over and over without consequence or boundaries? Especially if they say they are sorry? Does forgiving equal accepting wrongs?
- Matthew tells Gaias: “Every morning I wake up my ideas and fears are jumbled. I feel overwhelmed with doubt and regret. But if I just pause for a moment and remember I only have one thing to do today--to follow him--the rest just takes care of itself.”
 - What is the wisdom of this statement? Is it just ignorance is bliss? Or a trust that God will lead us where we need to be and be there with the tools to handle whatever it is?