

The CHOSEN with Hosanna!



SEASON 3: EPISODE 4

SCHEDULE

June 30-July 12 - Watch Episodes 3-4

July 13, 6:45-8:00 - Discuss Episodes 3-4

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

- This episode is labeled as Part 1 of 2. Although the story will continue and deepen in the second part in episode 5, it is self-contained. We'll be fine watching and discussing them separately.
- When the episode opens in black and white, and you can't hear their talking very well, know that it's not your TV/computer. That's just the cinematic effect they chose for this part.

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

- When you see the disciples pulling something out of their bag, touching people (or in Matthew's case, flinging it at them), that is anointing oil. Read James 5:13-16.
 - What difference does anointing with oil make?
 - What difference do your prayers make?
 - Who are the "elders of the church" entrusted with this ministry? Are you?
- What are your first impressions of the disciples preaching and healing?
 - What does it stir in you?
 - What do you make of their own reactions to what they do?
 - What do you make of other peoples' reactions to the disciples?

- The Rabbi drones on while reading scripture about discharge, dead bodies, and ritual cleansing. Does worship ever feel this way to you? Why or why not?
 - What might be the cure to church droning?
 - What do you bring to worship that leads you to zone out or contribute to the spirit of worship?
- Note the tone of the conversation between the people and the Roman officials about the cistern. This is pretty typical for the time (and maybe ours, too).
 - Why are both so loathe to take responsibility? Why do we have civic relationships like this in our world?
 - When something we depend on “breaks,” we feel powerless. What has left you feeling powerless or at your wit’s end lately?
- What are your first impressions of Veronica?
 - “Veronica” doesn’t actually appear in the Bible, but she is mentioned in Christian tradition and lore. Do you know what for? Do you know where that lore comes from?
- The women discuss how to support the ministry, as does Zebedee. Ministry costs money.
 - Why do our finances cause such stress? Why does it cause joy for Zebedee?
 - What must be sacrificed at times for ministry? What can be joyfully given?
- When they get back together, the disciples discuss their experience: “He didn’t *give* us power. He worked *through* us.” “By using us as vessels, Jesus gave us power, but no understanding.” “I also struggled to understand.” “We healed, but we still felt overwhelmed.” “But did he require understanding?”
 - When have you felt like God was calling you to do something, but you didn’t understand what you were supposed to do or how you were supposed to do it? How did it turn out?
 - What can help you trust God to provide in future times like this?
- Little John said, “When I was preaching, I could feel him, giving me the words.” James replied, “I said things that I don’t comprehend or live by. I felt like a fraud.”
 - Which of these sentiments do you feel most often? Why?
 - Can you understand the other sentiment?
- Big John said, “I felt powerful, like I could do anything,” to which Philip replied, “Yes, John, but isn’t that dangerous? If that is the feeling we hold onto?”
 - How can our feelings of self-importance distract or disrupt us? Can feeling like God is “on our side” lead us to use our power to hurt others? Can you give an example?
- Andrew asks Eden (his sister-in-law): “Are you alright?” She replies, “I’m fine.”
 - How often do we answer people’s questions with, “I’m fine,” when we’re really not?
 - How often does the other person want the true answer (did Andrew)? How often are we afraid to give the true answer?
- What do you make of the standoff between Eden and Simon?
 - Simon lashes out at Jesus, “So this is what it’s going to be like now?” How does the tension in your relationships sometimes spill over and impact others? Or vice versa?
 - It’s clearly difficult for Simon and Eden to just stop their discussion when everyone shows up. How hard is it for you when you are going through something and suddenly have to stuff it all down and be “fine.”

- When Eden and Veronica are talking about how she's been hemorrhaging for 12 years, she says it makes her weak, that she is unmarried, and "un-everything." How would you feel in her position?
 - Eden asks, "So what do you do with no hope?" She replies, "I haven't lost all hope. There's no cure by doctors. But there might be something I haven't done yet."
 - What is hope? How is it different than optimism?
 - What causes us to lose hope? What gives us hope?
- Simon tells Gaius he's never seen him without a sword. Gaius tells Simon he's never seen him without his exasperating teacher. We find out that Gaius' grandfather was a sailor, who taught him sailing knots. And Simon seems "like the sort of man that needs to be doing something with his hands."
 - Are Romans regular people, too? Aren't they the bad guys in the Bible?
 - Are disciples (or pastors, or Christians) regular people, too? Can they be complex, and not always saintly?
- Gaius says, "You Jews. Your rules make your lives very complicated." Simon replies, "Us Jews . . . Well, Jesus will undo some of that. He reminds us what we live for." Gaius continues, "Well, they say he performs miracles, or the appearance of miracles. Why doesn't he just miraculously fix this cistern?"
 - Why doesn't Jesus just miraculously fix the stuff in our lives that we are powerless over?
 - Are they really powerless? How is God working to get the cistern fixed in spite of civic difference? How is God working in your life when you feel powerless?
 - *What* do our rituals and our God remind us that we're living for? How does that change *how* we live?
- The episode ends with some questions up in the air. What do you think will happen with:
 - Veronica?
 - Jairus' daughter?
 - The cistern?
 - If your answer is "because the Bible says..." think about *why* you come to expect things to work out in the end. Read Romans 8:18-30.